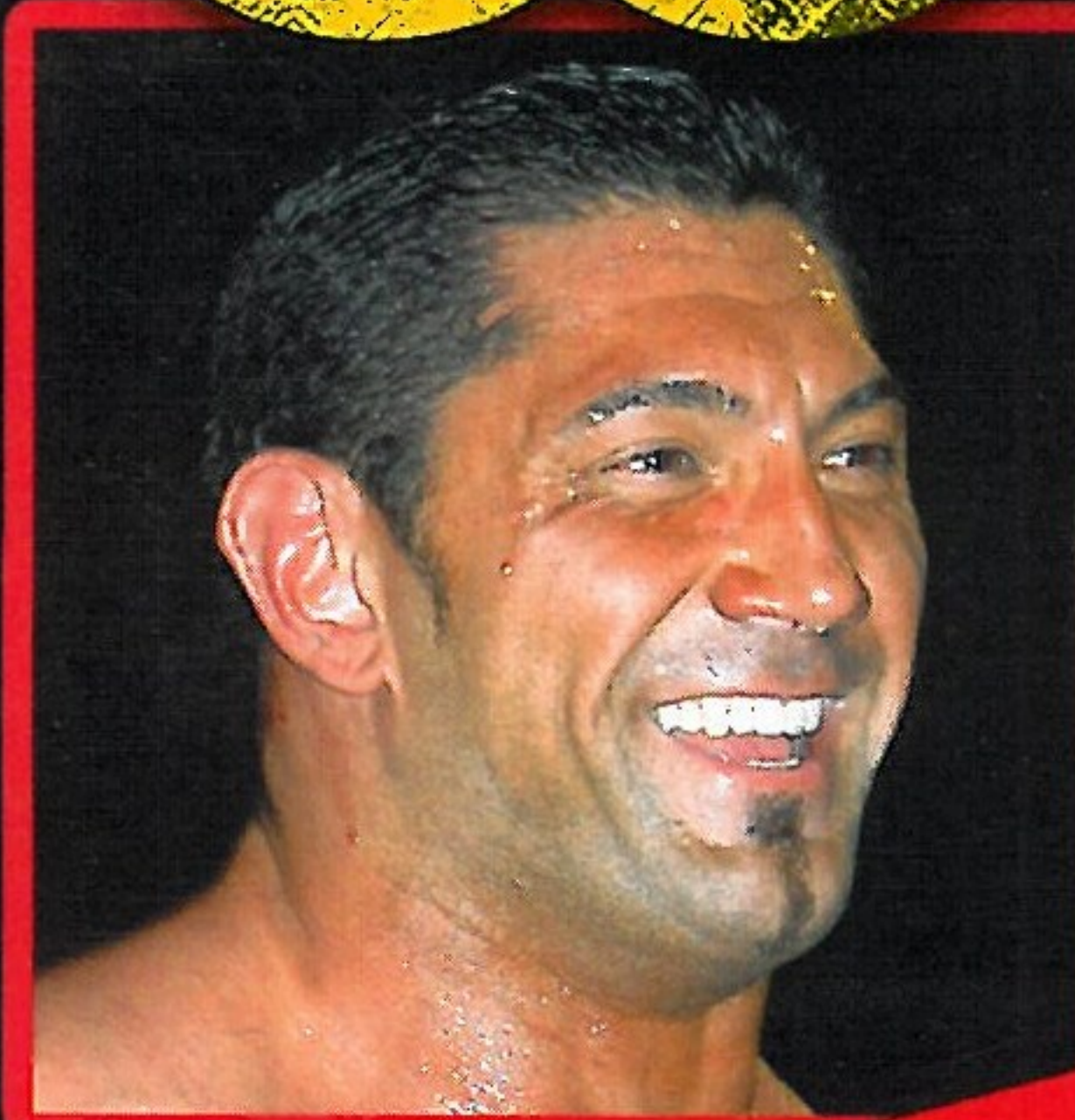


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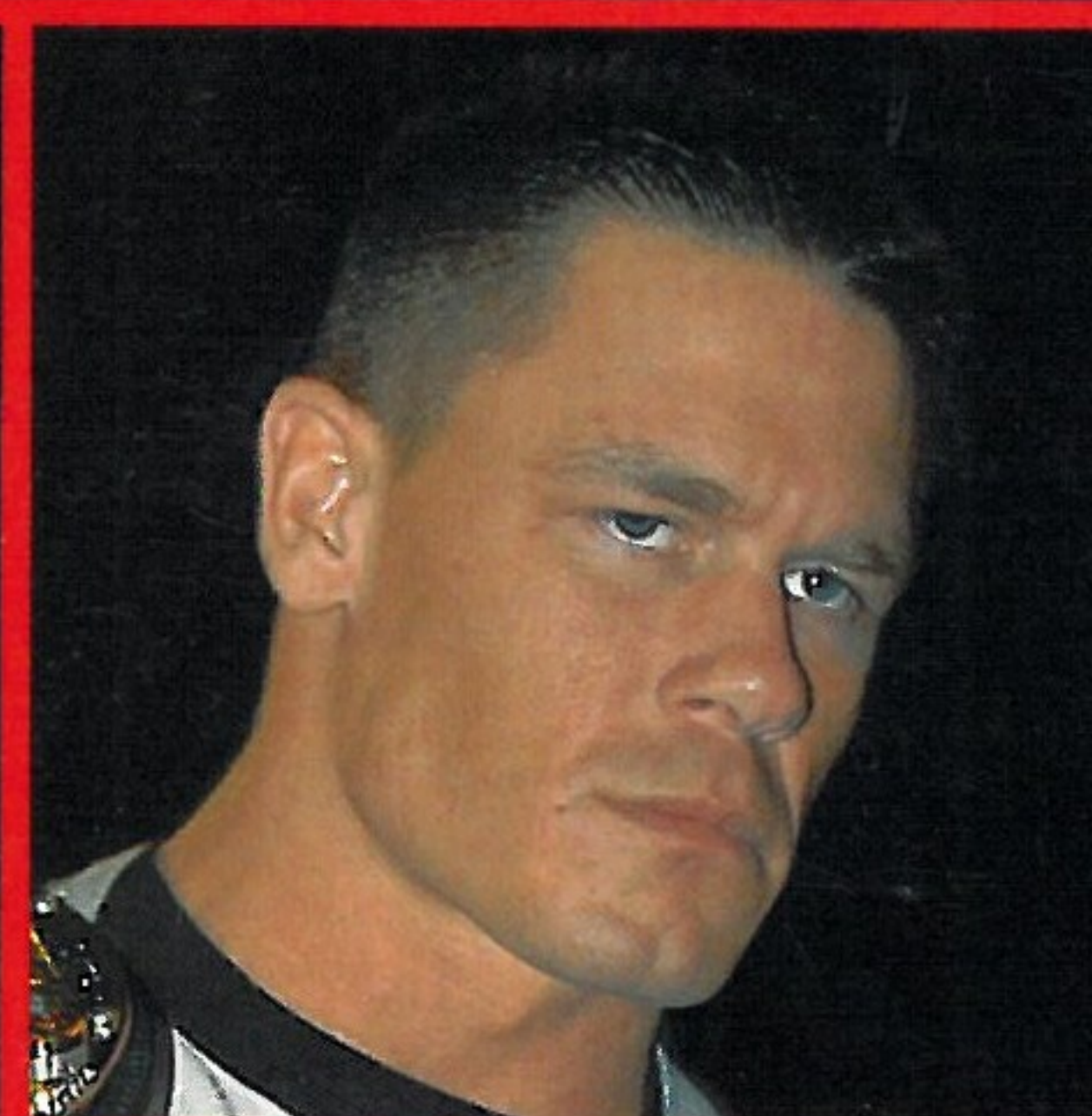
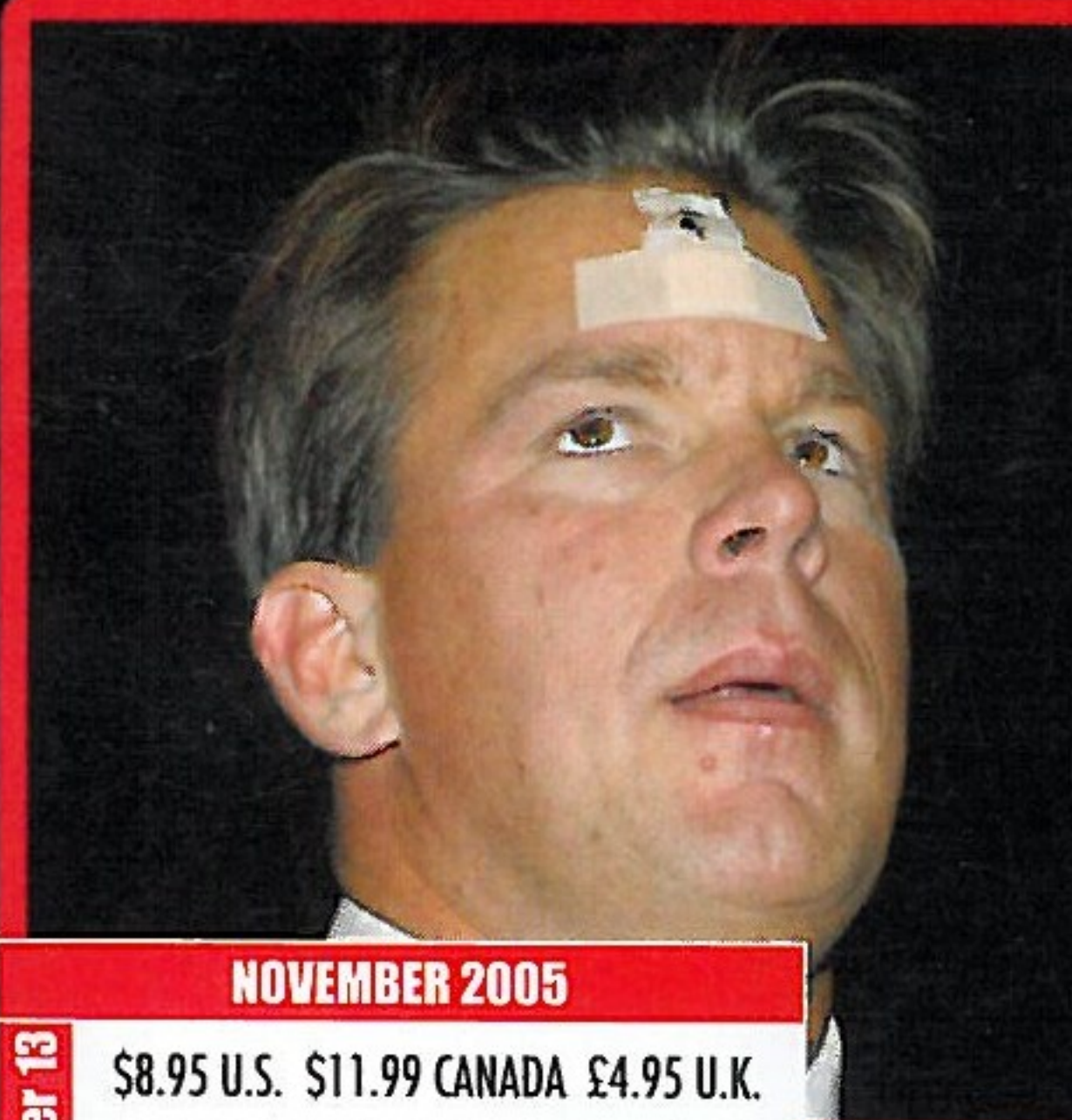


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15th Annual

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154	Abismo Negro	109	Elijah Burke	332	Danny Doring	300	Teddy Hart	519	Mike Mondo	145	Trevor Rhodes	7	A.J. Styles
37	Abyss	95	Colt Cabana	96	Andy Douglas	33	Muhammad Hassan	139	Shannon Moore	157	Rhino	321	Rico Suave
64	Perro Aguayo Jr.	486	John Cabbie	214	Dr. X	246	Cody Hawk	101	Donovan Morgan	134	Steven Richards	455	Tommy Suede
111	Mr. Aguila	153	Garrison Cade	495	Damian Dragon	73	Kaz Hayashi	54	Matt Morgan	84	Takeshi Rikioh	498	C.J. Summers
141	Akio	283	Arik Cannon	209	Ultimo Dragon	221	Heavy Metal	308	Frank Murdoch	163	Rikishi	152	Super Delfin
107	Jun Akiyama	392	Frankie Capone	228	Dragon Kid	89	Heidenreich	365	Dropkick Murphy	453	Jolly Roger	133	Kenzo Suzuki
395	Gran Akuma	91	Matt Cappotelli	493	Eric Draven	481	Hellcat	99	Keiji Muto	417	Roman	165	Johnny Swinger
476	Terry Alan	160	Dos Caras Jr.	260	D-Ray 3000	351	Super Hentai	205	Yuji Nagata	146	Rocky Romero	377	T. Rantula
82	Brent Albright	41	Carlito Caribbean Cool	87	Spike Dudley	198	Hotstuff Hernandez	234	Manabu Nakanishi	136	Romeo Roselli	49	Tajiri
276	Eric Alexander	233	Sean Casey	285	Kevin Dunn	24	El Hijo Del Santo	265	Prince Nana	92	Rosey	164	Tatsuhito Takaiwa
197	Alibrije	489	Jimmy Cash	117	Rene Dupree	78	Hardcore Holly	288	Naphtali	346	Axl Rotten	239	Masato Tanaka
362	Nikita Allanov	331	Claudio Castagnoli	121	Sonjay Dutt	158	Homicide	343	Nasdaq	55	Bobby Rude	219	Minoru Tanaka
464	Sean Allen	414	Huracan Castillo	201	Tyson Dux	281	Tom Howard	465	Freak Nasty	314	Jason Rumble	235	Tarzan Boy
76	American Dragon	2	John Cena	313	Rob Eckos	156	Lance Hoyt	354	E.C. Negro	69	Chris Sabin	184	Akira Taue
149	C.W. Anderson	404	Aden Chambers	8	Edge	344	Hangman Hughes	85	Negro Casas	22	Samoa Joe	393	Chris Taylor
279	Ken Anderson	341	Scotty Charisma	172	Elektro	477	Powerhouse Hughes	367	Derrick Neikirk	327	Fred Sampson	252	Mike Taylor
6	Kurt Angle	268	Chicano	56	Eugene	291	Human Tornado	500	Nick Nemeth	27	Kensuke Sasaki	112	Genichiro Tenryu
305	Apocalypse	444	Darin Childs	193	Jack Evans	436	Larry Huntley	329	El Nene	148	Seven	10	Hiro Yoshi Tenzan
62	Austin Aries	57	Masahiro Chono	435	Eric Everlast	75	Hurricane	224	Vance Nevada	245	Great Sasuke	132	Antonio Thomas
298	Alex Arion	30	Christian	220	Felino	424	P.T. Hussla	102	Mr. Niebla	137	Scotty Too Hotty	350	Sal Thomaselli
358	Marc Ash	488	Will Christianson	316	Adam Firestorm	446	Icarus	196	Osamu Nishimura	148	Seven	340	Vito Thomaselli
130	Atlantis	445	Shawn Christopher	51	Ric Flair	356	Aaron Idol	80	Johnny Nitro	415	Sexxy Eddie	467	Jack Thriller
483	Phil Atlas	191	CIMA	368	Tim Flowers	447	Justin Idol	202	Kevin Northcutt	225	Deuce Shade	282	Thunder
70	Averno	236	Jerrelle Clark	413	Mozart Fontaine	430	Indiana Kidd Jr.	474	Nova Cain	294	Seth Shai	353	K.C. Thunder
364	Andy Baker	470	Josh Cody	484	Forsaken	151	Danny Inferno	128	Nunzio	59	Michael Shane	21	Tiger Mask IV
452	Kevin Baker	161	Chad Collyer	336	Rory Fox	497	J.V. Insanity	396	C.J. O'Doyle	190	Mike Shane	355	Mike Tobin
240	Shane Ballard	204	Eddie Colon	310	Mike Foxx	420	Invader I	405	Ryan O'Reilly	188	Todd Shane	170	Dick Togo
248	Shannon Ballard	63	Rob Conway	450	Franky the Mobster	269	Chet Jablonski	286	Onyx	119	Shark Boy	127	Chad Toland
217	Ricky Banderas	471	Shawn Cook	261	Minoru Fujita	243	Dean Jablonski	373	Dru Onyx	103	Alex Shelley	114	Tank Toland
441	Billy Bart	113	Steve Corino	108	Sho Funaki	176	Jimmy Jacobs	384	Mr. Ooh La La	212	Jinsei Shinzaki	104	Tyson Tomko
72	Danny Basham	490	Brian Costello	47	Hector Garza	254	Jado	142	Oriental	52	Shocker	4	Triple-H
66	Doug Basham	466	Darkness Crabtree	397	Scotty Gash	150	Jamal	423	Luis Ortiz	29	Randy Orton	256	Turbo
412	Don Basher	391	Crazy J	181	Gedo	98	B.G. James	29	Randy Orton	425	Shawn Osborne	479	Ultramantis Black
1	Batista	432	John Curse	100	James Gibson	363	Japanese Pool Boy	425	Shawn Osborne	379	Glen Osbourne	26	The Undertaker
266	Mikey Batts	215	Scott D'Amore	419	Tony Givens	11	Jeff Jarrett	53	Shinjiro Otani	53	Shinjiro Otani	385	Quinson Valentino
338	Billy Bax	388	Brent Dail	194	Glamor Boy Shane	433	J-Busta	208	Chuck Palumbo	238	Pantera	162	Vampiro
210	B-Boy	125	Khosrow Daivari	473	Tony Golden	25	Chris Jericho	35	L.A. Park	35	L.A. Park	135	Val Venis
309	Da Beast	458	Danger	183	Ray Gonzalez	97	Johnny Jeter	250	Frank Parker	402	Shawn Patrick	237	Slash Venom
9	Shelton Benjamin	17	Christopher Daniels	293	Ray Gordy	389	Jigsaw	301	Boomer Payne	147	Adam Pearce	478	Viper
13	Chris Benoit	192	Danny Daniels	487	Gotti	118	Mark Jindrak	352	Bam Bam Penders	431	Brian Soscia	129	Viscera
175	Giant Bernard	203	Josh Daniels	469	Kevin Grace	318	Cru Jones	324	J.J. Perez	403	George South Sr.	43	Dr. Wagner Jr.
274	Biggie Biggs	475	Brian Danzig	443	Johnny Graham	347	Dow Jones	468	Dexter Poindexter	81	Spanky	295	Vordell Walker
31	Big Show	386	Sebastian Dark	480	Bruiser Graham	229	Tony Jones	267	Predator	407	Glen Spectre	213	John Walters
319	Brian Black	271	Webster Dauphiney	264	Gran Apolo	86	Orlando Jordan	438	D.J. P-Roc	411	Greg Spitz	303	Tim Warcloud
427	J.P. Black	348	Robbie Dawber	270	Gran Hamada	406	J-Rocc	223	Josh Prohibition	409	Jeff Starr	207	B.J. Whitmer
167	Black Warrior	88	Simon Dean	408	Supreme Lee Great	292	Juggernaut	144	Psicosis	322	Michelle Starr	499	Burt Williams
227	Blue Meanie	337	Vik Delicious	325	Dennis Gregory	370	Apollo Kahn	290	Daniel Puder	171	Ace Steel	138	Doug Williams
168	Blue Panther	372	Delirious	94	Sylvan Grenier	19	Kane	179	Puma	253	Rod Steel	23	Petey Williams
390	Hook Bomberry	429	Mike Dell	399	Eddie Guapo	131	Koji Kanemoto	40	C.M. Punk	349	Bruce Steele	306	Tommy Williams
463	Adam Booker	418	Chase Del Monte	126	Juventud Guerrera	115	Kid Kash	242	Mike Quackenbush	401	Cody Steele	230	T.J. Wilson
20	Booker T	296	Steve DeMarco	48	Chavo Guerrero Jr.	46	Toshiaki Kawada	277	Quiet Storm	434	Rod Steele	357	Alyx Winters
400	The Bouncer	494	Aaron Devil	15	Eddie Guerrero	79	Frankie Kazarian	422	Dean Radford	120	Aaron Stevens	315	Dusty Wolfe
297	Brad Bradley	383	Diabolico	12	Ultimo Guerrero	178	Taiyo Kea	257	Alastair "A-1" Ralphz	90	Chase Stevens	312	Marty Wright
226	Bronco	247	Diamante	123	Billy Gunn	311	Sterling James Keenan	361	John Rambo	375	Devon Storm	244	Toru Yano
492	Brother Clay	185	Simon Diamond	482	Ric Gunner	382	Conrad Kennedy III	140	Jimmy Rave	71	James Storm	259	Takashi Yoshida
28	Monty Brown	457	Marcus Dillon	456	Gutter	65	KENTA	45	Raven	275	The Stro	199	David Young
143	D-Lo Brown	187	Julio Dinero	68	Charlie Haas	105	Billy Kidman	263	Amazing Red	232	Roderick Strong	60	Eric Young
278	Slyk Wagner Brown	307	Ken Doan	439	Snatch Haggis	50	Ron Killings	44	William Regal	333	Sedrick Strong	437	Scott Zenzen
38	Rey Bucanero	491	Toy Dodson	374	Hallowicked	284	Arch Kincaid	177	Ricky Reyes	180	Matt Stryker	461	Mister Zero
381	Buff-E	387	Shirley Doe	273	Chris Hamrick	410	Eddie Kingston					496	Lord Zoltan
				448	Handsome Johnny	421	K-Murda						
				58	Jeff Hardy	334	Joey Knight						
				67	Chris Harris	426	Kevin Knight						



# PWI 500

## TWO-MAN RACE IN 2005

**I**F YOU'RE LOOKING for an indication as to what the "PWI 500" might end up looking like in any given year, just wait until WrestleMania has played itself out. In case you hadn't been paying close attention, really big stuff happens at WrestleMania every year. Title chases come to an end. Feuds hit their climax. Matches of the Years take place.

Until the last few years, you could count on the winner of the main event of WrestleMania to be one of the heavy favorites to earn the top spot in the "PWI 500" a few months later. Almost certainly, the winner of that main event would have either won or successfully defended the WWE World championship.

But since the advent of the brand extension, things have gotten just a touch more complicated. Now we have two brands and two champions and both a WWE and a World title match at WrestleMania to consider. So WWE must decide which title match should go on last as the *true* main event. In 2005, Triple-H vs. Batista for the World title got the nod over JBL vs. John Cena for the WWE title. But two new champions were crowned on April 2 in Los Angeles. And these two new champions won cleanly. And they have reigned as champions right up until press time for this magazine and through the remainder of the "grading period" for this version of the "500."

In spite of the tease on the cover, the race for the top spot wasn't all that wide-open in 2005. With apologies to Satoshi Kojima, who in 2005 became the first man to hold the All-Japan Triple Crown and the IWGP heavyweight titles simultaneously, virtually all of us at *PWI* agreed that it came down to Batista and Cena. Batista or Cena? Cena or Batista?

There was a lot of hedging, a little bit of vacillating, and quite a few sets of hands thrown up in the air as we conducted our debate over which most deserved to be numero uno. Granted, neither man will blow anyone away with his technical expertise, but they both found ways to win a lot during the last year ... against a high grade of competition ... and they both sure influenced the sport (in good ways).

Cena could have gotten the nod because he had a run with a secondary title (U.S.) before winning one of the two

big belts at 'Mania. But that Royal Rumble victory for Batista—which just so happened to see him eliminate Cena in the end—had to count for a lot. Plus his three decisive PPV wins over Triple-H were huge.

So Batista is our guy. But it will go down as one of the closest two-man races in "PWI 500" history. *Hmmmmmm*, maybe we could find out who really is the better man sometime fairly soon. Maybe a little one-on-one showdown. How does WrestleMania 22 sound to everybody?

\*\*\*

Examining the criteria for the "PWI 500," you can see why we went with Batista. Those criteria are (in order of importance):

- Win-loss record
- Technical ability
- Influence on the sport
- Success against the highest grade of competition
- Success against the most diverse competition
- Activity

As always, keep in mind that the "PWI 500" is not a ranking for the calendar year January through December. The "grading period" this year runs from August 2004 through July 2005.

Any wrestler who has lost significant time due to injury can either be dropped from the list entirely (in which case he will be listed in "Farewell To The 500" with a disabled list—DL—designation) or receive a ranking that might not be commensurate with his abilities or the amount of success he enjoyed in a reduced time frame.

Feel free to offer your feedback. You can reach us with your comments at "PWI 500," P.O. Box 1148, Fort Washington, PA 19034. Or you can e-mail us at londonpub@kappapublishing.com (please write "PWI 500" in the subject field).

\*\*\*

[Editor's note: The numbers in parentheses following each name represent the wrestler's height, weight, years of pro experience, and ranking in the 2004 "PWI 500." An "NL" means the wrestler was not listed a year ago. Following the ratings is a complete listing of wrestlers ranked in 2004 but not in 2005 (page 88), as well as an alphabetical cross-reference to the "PWI 500" (pages 90-91).]

## 1 BATISTA

(6'6", 318, 7, 20)

**PATH TO NUMBER 1:** 257 in 2001, 28 in 2002, NL in 2003, 20 in 2004.

### TOP FIVE MOMENTS OF THE YEAR:

1. Pinned Triple-H to win the Raw World title in the main event of WrestleMania 21.
2. Successfully defended the title against Triple-H in a "Hell In The Cell" match at Vengeance.
3. Won the 2005 Royal Rumble to earn a title shot at WrestleMania.
4. Surprised Triple-H at the title contract signing by staying with Raw rather than jumping to Smackdown.
5. Successfully defended the title against Triple-H at Backlash.

**WHY HE'S NUMBER 1:** The long-simmering ill will between Triple-H and his Evolution teammate Batista finally came to a boil leading up to WrestleMania ... Not only did Batista win the title, but he also became WWE's most popular wrestler ... Has been on an incredible hot streak ever since The Royal Rumble ... Demon Bomb power bomb never fails to put opponents away ... Batista has dominated Triple-H as no one has ever done, though how he will fare against other opponents remains to be seen ... Has greatly improved his cardiovascular conditioning over the past few months without sacrificing any of his Herculean physique.

**WHERE HE'S HEADED:** The move from Raw to Smackdown can be interpreted two different ways: Either putting the mega-popular Batista on Smackdown is an attempt to spike ratings on the program that is generally considered to be WWE's "B show," or WWE Creative feels that John Cena is the man they should promote as the company's top champion. Either way, Batista is WWE's dominant force. Like Goldberg and Brock Lesnar before him, he is a genetic freak who dominates opposition. Unlike those other wrestlers, Batista comes off as extremely intelligent, calm, and collected, and less prone to making critical errors in judgment. He also has a special charisma that should make him a hit on the talk show circuit, helping WWE score more mainstream publicity. If he can remain healthy and can adapt to facing smaller, quicker opponents like Eddie Guerrero and Muhammad Hassan, he should hold his title for a long time.

## 2 JOHN CENA

(6'3", 260, 5, 7)

**PATH TO NUMBER 2:** 281 in 2001, 46 in 2002, 12 in 2003, 7 in 2004.

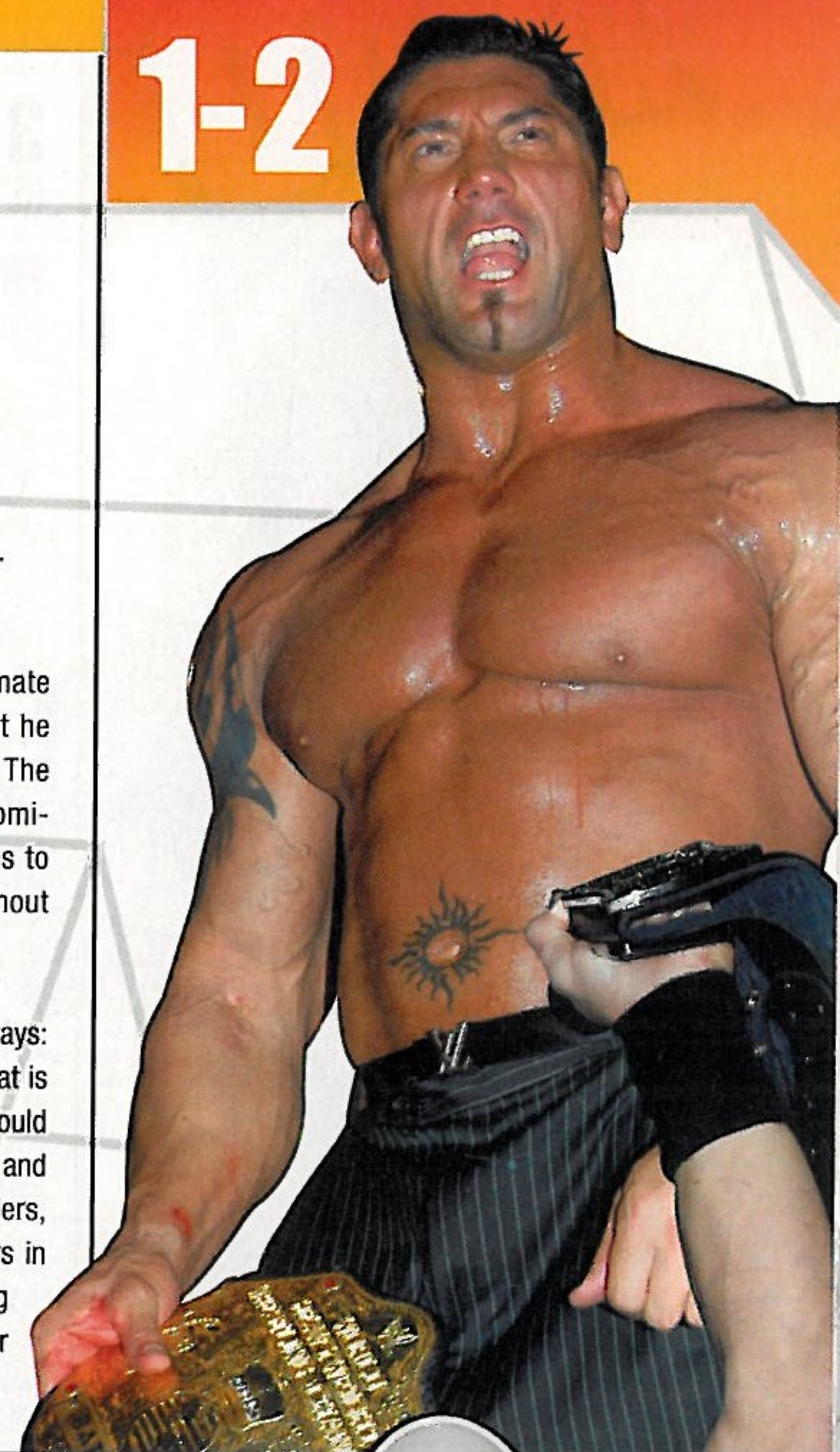
### TOP FIVE MOMENTS OF THE YEAR:

1. Beat JBL to win the Smackdown World title at WrestleMania 21.
2. Retained the title in a three-way match against Christian and Chris Jericho at Vengeance.
3. Retained the title with a win over JBL in an "I Quit" match at Judgment Day.
4. Caused a huge commotion by being traded from Smackdown to Raw and throwing the World title situation into turmoil.
5. Was one of the last two men (and at one point appeared to win) the 2005 Royal Rumble before being eliminated by Batista.

**WHY HE'S NUMBER 2:** He says "his time is now," and it certainly seems to be ... Cena became Smackdown's top contender after a series of wins over Booker T, Kurt Angle, and Carlito ... Allowed JBL very little offense at WrestleMania in his one-sided title win ... Enormously popular with his "Chain Gang" ... Five-knuckle-shuffle setup may be the people's elbow of 2005 ... Has added more force to his FU finisher, torquing his opponent's neck and coming down harder on the slam ... Move to Raw gives him more visibility, and with that comes more pressure to carry the promotion.

**WHERE HE'S HEADED:** At this time last year, Randy Orton seemed to be the man WWE management was hoping could become the company's next megastar. Now it's a two-horse race between Cena and Batista. Cena's move to Raw gives him visibility, as does his hip-hop career and concert appearances. But Cena's "Doctor Of Thuganomics" routine has a tendency to divide fans. It's impossible to like Cena is you don't care for his gimmick. If he can continue to develop his skills and be judged more for what he can accomplish inside the ring than the smack-talking he does outside of the ring, then he may have potential to be a headliner for the next few years. But if Cena gets pigeonholed as "the rapping wrestler," he'll always be known for his gimmick rather than skills.

1-2





## 3 SATOSHI KOJIMA

(6', 243, 15, 109)

**PATH TO NUMBER 3:** 111 in 1997, 130 in 1998, 144 in 1999, 110 in 2000, 85 in 2001, 31 in 2002, 74 in 2003, 109 in 2004.

### TOP FIVE MOMENTS OF THE YEAR:

1. As holder of the Triple Crown, he won Hiroyoshi Tenzan's IWGP heavyweight title on February 17, 2005, becoming the first man to ever hold both legendary titles simultaneously.
2. Won the All-Japan Triple Crown from long-reigning champ Toshiaki Kawada on February 16, 2005.
3. Had an epic match with Tenzan on May 14, 2005, where he lost the IWGP title but kept the Triple Crown.
4. With partner Kaz Hayashi, defeated Kensuke Sasaki and Katsuhiko Nakajima May 29, 2005.
5. Won the "A block" of April's Champion's Carnival tournament.

**WHY HE'S NUMBER 3:** Leaving New Japan for All-Japan years ago seemed like a career risk at the time, but it has paid off for him ... The first man in history to simultaneously hold the IWGP heavyweight title (New Japan championship) and the Triple Crown (All-Japan championship), essentially creating the Quadruple Crown ... Only managed to maintain it for a few months before losing the IWGP title back to former tag team partner Hiroyoshi Tenzan ... Most important box office draw for the ailing All-Japan Pro Wrestling promotion since Toshiaki Kawada declared his free agency ... Long overdue breakout year for this talented star ... Was warmly received in the United States for his appearance in Ring of Honor a year ago against Homicide ... Sometimes transforms into The Great Kosuke, a nod to fellow wrestler The Great Sasuke.

**WHERE HE'S HEADED:** Briefly unifying the All-Japan Triple Crown and the IWGP heavyweight title is the single biggest accomplishment in  *puroresu*  history. He can only head down from here, unless he comes to the U.S. and has similar success here. While his place in history is forever secure in the wake of his monumental win, there may not be a greater obstacle for his career to tackle, and his greatest year is probably already behind him.

## 4 TRIPLE-H

(6'5", 269, 14, 3)

**PATH TO NUMBER 4:** 225 in 1994, 84 in 1995, 79 in 1996, 31 in 1997, 24 in 1998, 26 in 1999, 1 in 2000, 6 in 2001, 10 in 2002, 2 in 2003, 3 in 2004, 4 in 2004.

### TOP FIVE MOMENTS OF THE YEAR:

1. Defeated Randy Orton for the Raw World title at Unforgiven 2004.
2. Won the Elimination Chamber bout to regain the vacant World title at New Year's Revolution.
3. Successfully defended the World title against Orton at the 2005 Royal Rumble in a dominant performance.
4. Pinned Shawn Michaels at Taboo Tuesday.
5. Brutalized Batista with a sledgehammer after Ric Flair's Raw double-cross.

**WHY HE'S NUMBER 4:** "The Game" put a premature stop to Randy Orton's title run, but badly mismanaged his relationship with teammate Batista and it has haunted him ever since ... Recaptured the belt once it was declared vacant by winning an Elimination Chamber match against Chris Benoit, Batista, Edge, Orton, and Chris Jericho ... Has been in a major slump ever since losing to Batista at WrestleMania ... Nonetheless, he is one of WWE's best all-around wrestlers and is doing everything in his power to surpass Ric Flair's mark of 16 World titles ... Arguably in the best condition of his career, melding power with superior cardiovascular conditioning ... History shows he always regroupes when he's in trouble ... Having Flair at his side keeps him focused.

**WHERE HE'S HEADED:** There's no reason to believe Triple-H is going to fall out of the World title picture anytime soon. He has been a consistent headliner ever since winning his first World title back in 1999. The cynics may credit part of his staying power to his marriage to Stephanie McMahon, but the fact of the matter is that Triple-H is a consistent performer who can handle the pressures of being on top. It's a safe bet that Triple-H will have regained the belt at least once before the year comes to a close.

## 5 JOHN BRADSHAW LAYFIELD

(6'7", 309, 13, 15)

**PATH TO NUMBER 5:** 301 in 1993, 210 in 1994, 327 in 1995, 150 in 1996, 173 in 1997, 102 in 1998, 78 in 1999, 87 in 2000, 45 in 2001, 36 in 2002, NL in 2003, 15 in 2004.

### TOP FIVE MOMENTS OF THE YEAR:

1. Beat Booker T, Eddie Guerrero, and The Undertaker in a four-way World title defense at Armageddon.
2. Pinned Kurt Angle to retain the title against Angle and The Big Show at the Royal Rumble.
3. Survived WWE's first barbed wire steel cage match, stealing victory from The Big Show at No Way Out.
4. Successfully defended the title against Booker T at Survivor Series 2004.
5. Faced John Cena in a co-main event match at WrestleMania 21. Though he lost the match, he got to headline WrestleMania, which is a career highlight.

**WHY HE'S NUMBER 5:** While he may not be a wrestling god, JBL did manage to hold the WWE title for most of the past year ... Showed a survivor's mentality and frequently—though reluctantly—defended his beloved championship against several competitors at once ... One of the sport's top brawlers ... His "clothesline from hell" has proven effective against the sport's top stars, and it may be the best clothesline finisher since Stan Hansen's lariat ... JBL is a master strategist and has shown he is willing to pay a physical price to be the champion.

**WHERE HE'S HEADED:** Though Layfield still has plenty of detractors—particularly following his attack on The Blue Meanie at One Night Stand—even the critics have to admit he did an admirable job as World champion. That being said, with the red-hot Batista now on Smackdown, another World title reign seems unlikely in the foreseeable future. However, if Batista begins to crack under the pressure of being champion, Layfield is waiting in the wings. JBL is a safe choice for a top spot. The fans hate him and will get behind anyone who faces him. He is one of Smackdown's most valuable wrestlers.

## 6 KURT ANGLE

(6'1", 233, 6, 36)

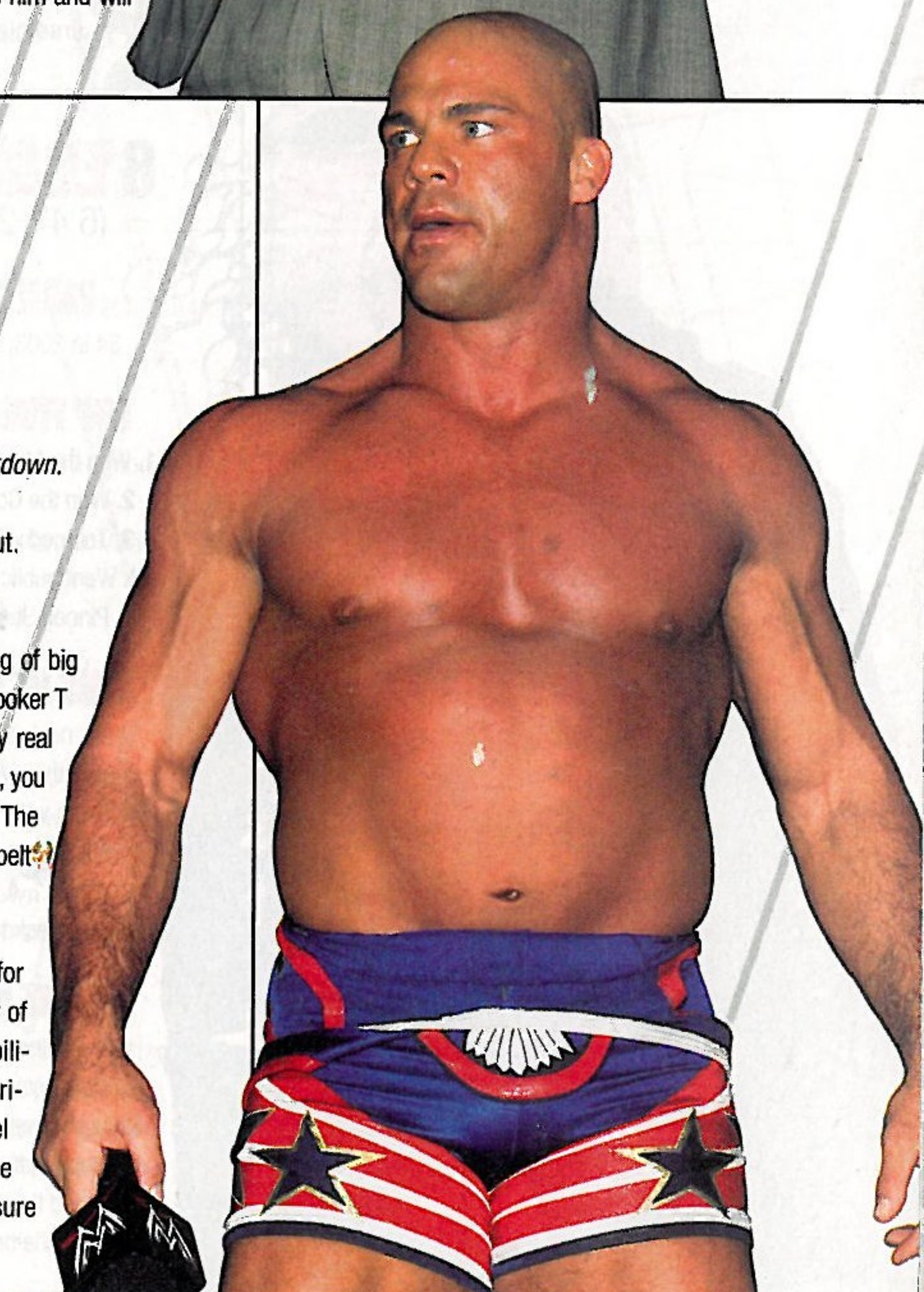
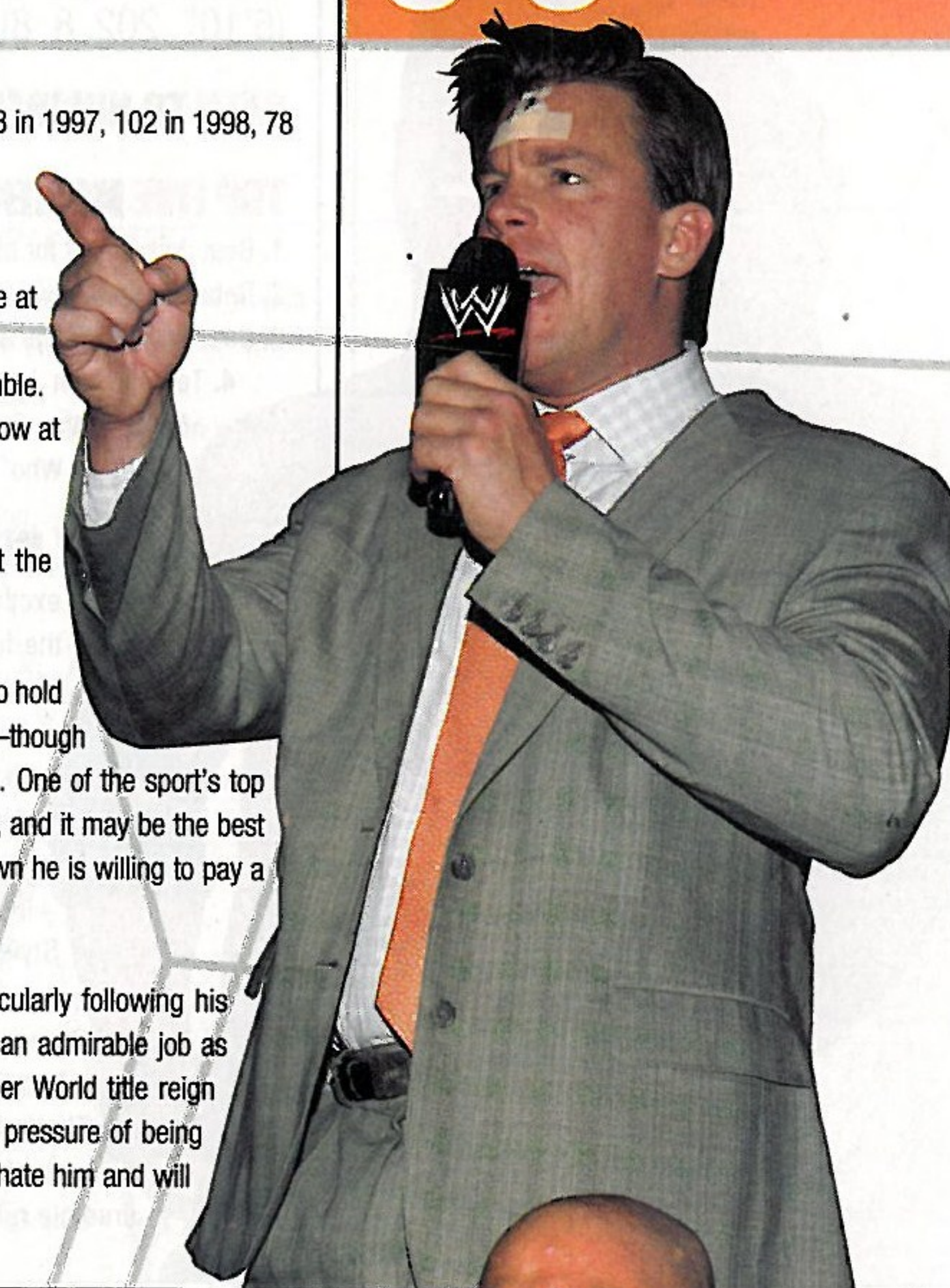
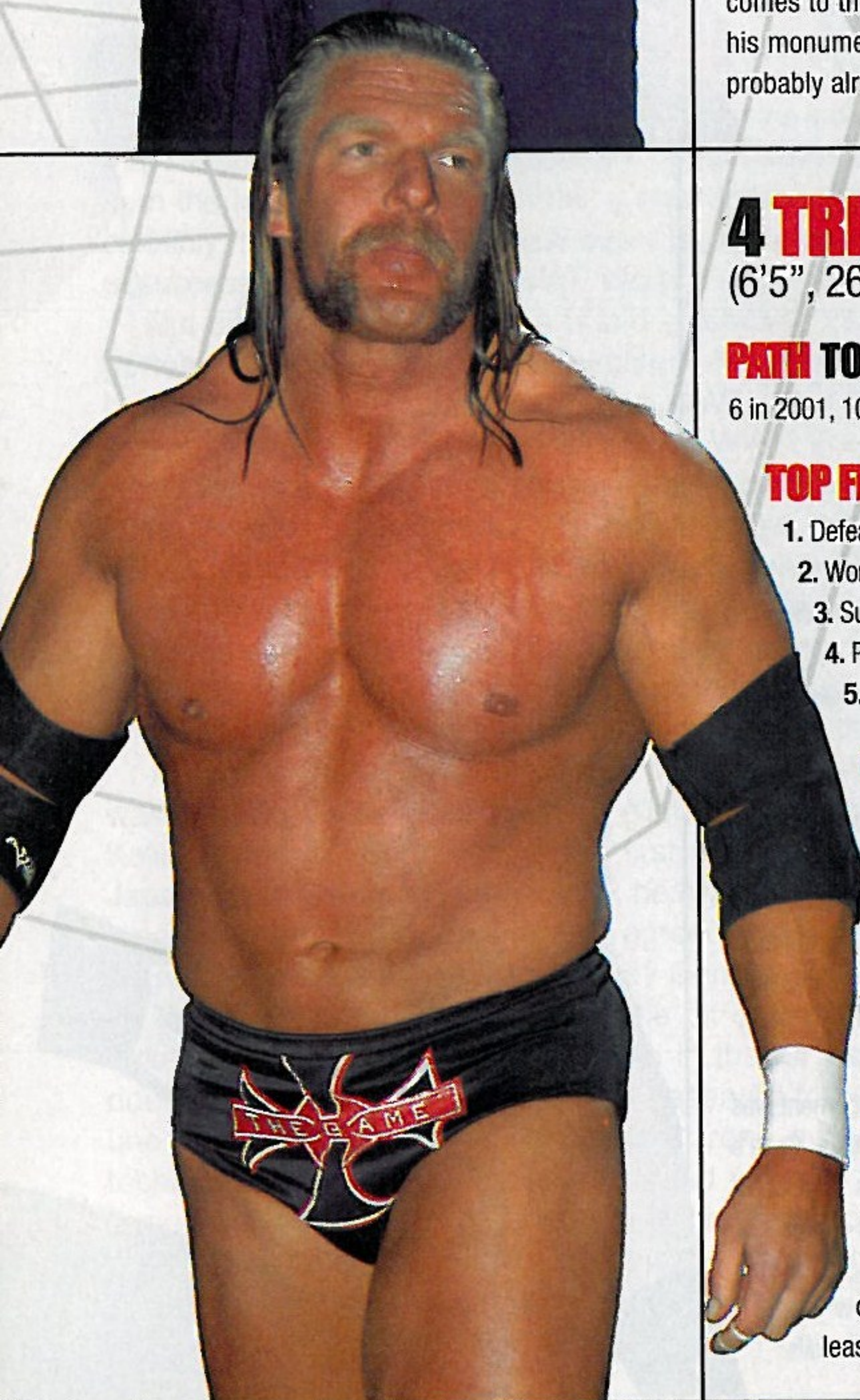
**PATH TO NUMBER 6:** 13 in 2000, 1 in 2001, 6 in 2002, 3 in 2003, 36 in 2004.

### TOP FIVE MOMENTS OF THE YEAR:

1. Defeated Shawn Michaels in a battle of the legends at WrestleMania 21.
2. Knocked out The Big Show with a tranquilizer gun and shaved Show's head on *Smackdown*.
3. Led a contingent of Smackdown stars in an invasion of ECW One Night Stand.
4. Lost to John Cena in a closely contested number-one contender's match at No Way Out.
5. Lost in a three-way match to JBL and Big Show at the Royal Rumble.

**WHY HE'S NUMBER 6:** No one can knock Angle's skills, but he's suffered a string of big losses over the past year ... Came out on the losing end of feuds against The Big Show and Booker T and was unable to win the Smackdown World title after several chances ... In fact, his only real shining moment of the past year was his win over Shawn Michaels at WrestleMania 21 ... Still, you can't argue with his skills ... Continues to irritate the fans with his Angle Challenge ... The Olympic gold medalist is a five-time World champion and is always capable of regaining the belt ... His brief association with Luther Reigns and Mark Jindrak did little except hold him back.

**WHERE HE'S HEADED:** It's incredible to think Angle has only been in the ring for six years. These days, many industry analysts have hailed Angle as the greatest wrestler of his generation, and possibly of all-time. No one else can match his blend of technical ability, personality, comic timing, intensity, and dedication. But Angle has suffered some serious spinal injuries over the years. How long can he continue to compete at the top level before his body begins giving out on him? The jump to Raw might rejuvenate him and give him the willpower to mount a serious run at the World title. Like Triple-H, it's almost a sure bet Angle will regain a World title at some point this year.





## 7 A.J. STYLES

(5'10", 202, 8, 8)

**PATH TO NUMBER 7:** 458 in 2000, 199 in 2001, 70 in 2002, 11 in 2003, 8 in 2004.

### TOP FIVE MOMENTS OF THE YEAR:

1. Beat Jeff Jarrett for his third NWA heavyweight title at Hard Justice.
2. Retained the X division title in an Iron Man match against Christopher Daniels at Against All Odds.
3. Beat Petey Williams and Chris Sabin an Ultimate X match to win the title at Final Resolution.
4. Teamed with Jeff Hardy and Randy Savage to beat Jarrett, Scott Hall, and Kevin Nash at Turning Point.
5. Beat Alex Shelley, Kid Kash, Amazing Red, Kazarian, and Chris Sabin in a veritable X division "Who's Who" to get a title shot at Victory Road.

**WHY HE'S NUMBER 7:** "The Phenomenal" A.J. Styles is one of the most innovative and exciting competitors in the U.S. today ... Widely viewed as NWA-TNA's resident "star of the future," but has had to take a back seat to men like Jarrett and Monty Brown for much of the past year ... A four-time X division champion and three-time NWA champion ... Also held the Ring of Honor Pure Wrestling title ... One of the most respected wrestlers on the independent circuit ... Won The Natural heavyweight title with a win over Sabu and Teddy Hart in a wild TLC match in Buffalo in August 2004.

**WHERE HE'S HEADED:** After climbing from 458 to 11 in just three years, Styles has leveled off in the "PWI 500." He's certainly a top-10 talent, but his lack of a killer instinct is hurting him. Styles is now a three-time NWA champion, but all three of those reigns have only added up to about six months. Last year, he bowed out of contention for the NWA title so he could spend more time in his beloved X division. That's like Michael Vick taking time off to play in the Arena league. If Styles wants to go to the next level, he needs to make a serious run at the NWA title and put together a credible reign. Until he does, he'll never be a true impact player.

## 8 EDGE

(6'4", 240, 12, 59)

**PATH TO NUMBER 8:** 254 in 1997, 67 in 1998, 83 in 1999, 51 in 2000, 20 in 2001, 7 in 2002, 34 in 2003, 59 in 2004.

### TOP FIVE MOMENTS OF THE YEAR:

1. Won the Money in the Bank ladder match at WrestleMania 21 to earn a future World title shot.
2. Won the Gold Rush tournament to earn another World title shot.
3. Teamed with Chris Benoit to win the Raw tag belts at Taboo Tuesday.
4. Went public with his relationship with Lita.
5. Pinned Shawn Michaels at the 2005 Royal Rumble.

**WHY HE'S NUMBER 8:** Edge decided the best way to recapture the momentum he lost due to his 2003 neck surgery was a heel turn—and his strategy has worked ... Beating Shawn Michaels propelled him to the main event level ... Shocked the fans—and Kane and Matt Hardy—by going public with his relationship with Lita ... Has toned down his high-risk style, which has helped him better compete with main-event talent ... Made some powerful enemies in Kane and Hardy and that has sidetracked him from his title chase ... A five-time Intercontinental champion, former U.S. champion, and 11-time combined Raw/Smackdown tag champion.

**WHERE HE'S HEADED:** Just a few months ago, it looked like Edge could very well be on his way to winning the Raw World title. He had not one, but *two* guaranteed World title matches in hand. Unfortunately, Batista destroyed his momentum by squashing him on Raw and forcing Edge to regroup. Then, when John Cena showed up with the Smackdown World title, it looked like Edge may well get his chance, as he matches up much better with Cena than Batista. However, the reappearance of Matt Hardy virtually ensures that Edge will spend the next few months feuding with Hardy over the Lita situation. As long as he's got Lita—and all the baggage she brings with Kane and Hardy—Edge has no shot of winning a World title.

## 9 SHELTON BENJAMIN

(6'2", 245, 5, 16)

**PATH TO NUMBER 9:** 153 in 2001, 132 in 2002, 30 in 2003, 16 in 2004.

### TOP FIVE MOMENTS OF THE YEAR:

1. Beat Chris Jericho to win the Intercontinental title at Taboo Tuesday.
2. Nailed Edge with an incredible exploder suplex off the top of a ladder during the Money in the Bank match at WrestleMania 21. Though Edge won the match, Benjamin was the one everyone was talking about when the match ended.
3. Lost to Shawn Michaels in a Match of the Year candidate bout on Raw on May 2, 2005. Benjamin showed he can compete with a WWE legend in a stellar bout.
4. Destroyed—and humiliated—Maven in a I-C title defense at New Year's Revolution.
5. Briefly reunited with World's Greatest Tag Team partner Charlie Haas to eliminate Rene Dupree at the 2005 Royal Rumble.

**WHY HE'S NUMBER 9:** Former collegiate champion has been making waves ever since he beat Triple-H in his Raw debut ... Won the fan balloting at Taboo Tuesday to earn a Intercontinental title shot against Jericho, and made the most of it ... Held the I-C title for almost seven months, but didn't have too many high-profile feuds during that time, so he hasn't received the acclaim he truly deserves ... Incredible balance, agility, and mat wrestling skills ... Defended that belt against Jericho, Maven, Muhammad Hassan, and others ... He could use some more matches against Michaels or Jericho before making a run for the World title.

**WHERE HE'S HEADED:** Benjamin is in prime position to be one of the breakout stars of this year. After such an impressive Intercontinental title reign, Benjamin is ready to step up and contend for a world championship. However, with Batista and John Cena holding WWE's two heavyweight titles, Benjamin may have to wait a while before he gets his chance. A rulebreaking turn may be in the cards, or at least a more aggressive attitude to force a title match against Cena. With his incredible athleticism and ongoing improvement, he could well replace Randy Orton as the company's future heir apparent.

## 10 HIROYOSHI TENZAN

(6', 248, 15, 11)

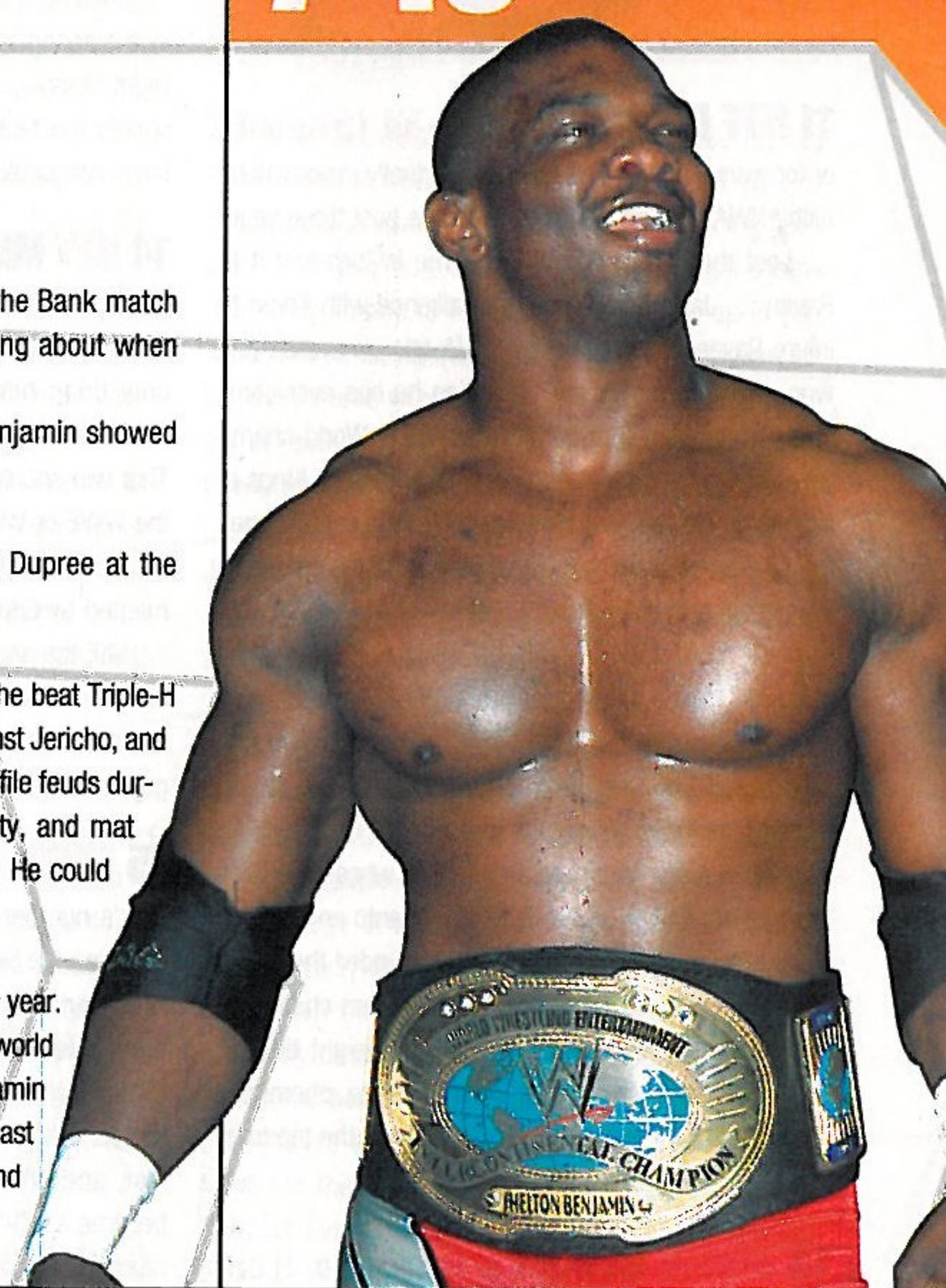
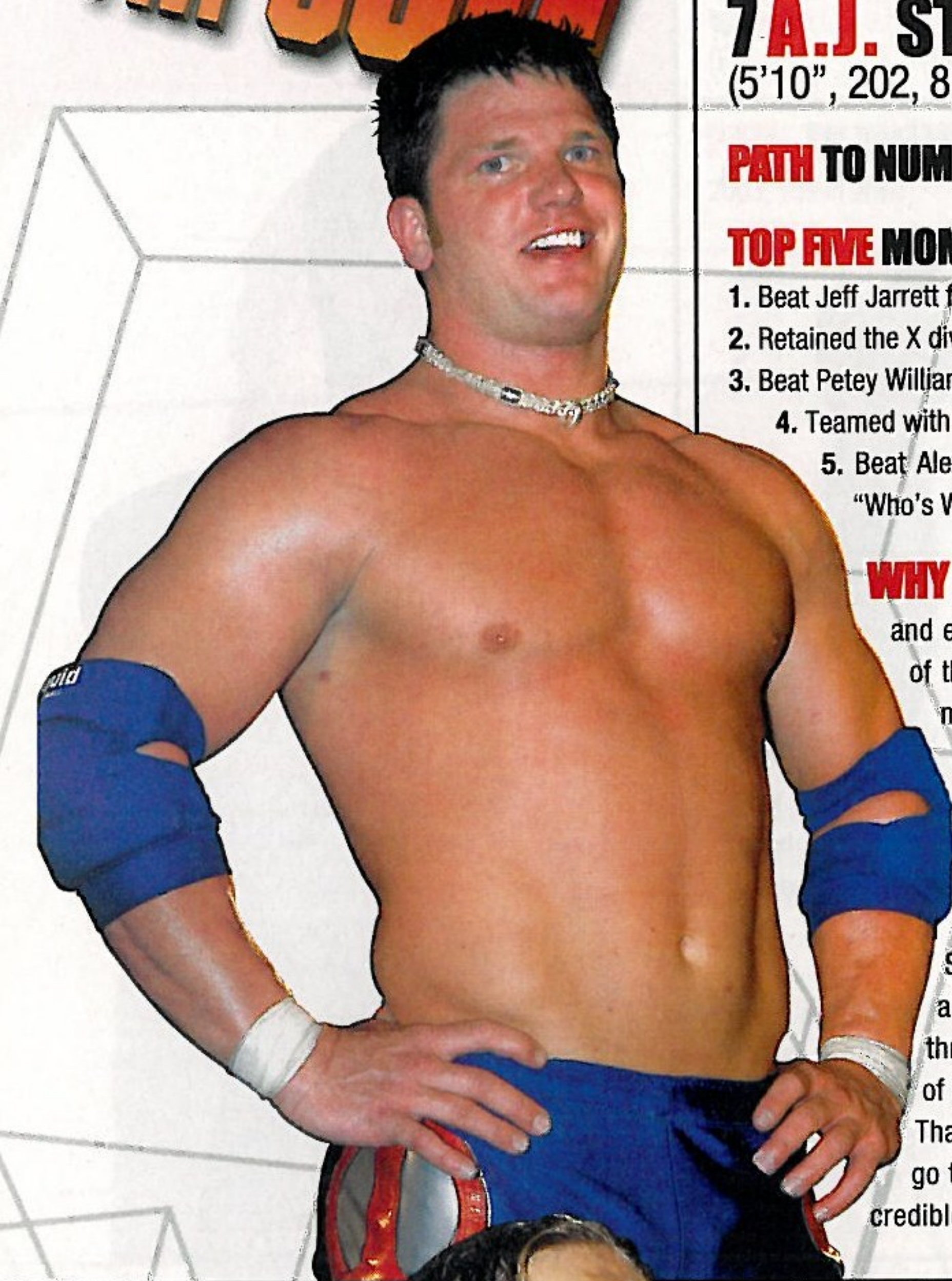
**PATH TO NUMBER 10:** 61 in 1996, 96 in 1997, 63 in 1998, 72 in 1999, 100 in 2000, 84 in 2001, 90 in 2002, 57 in 2003, 11 in 2004.

### TOP FIVE MOMENTS OF THE YEAR:

1. Avenged his prior loss to Satoshi Kojima and captured his fourth IWGP heavyweight championship at the Tokyo Dome on May 14, 2005.
2. Made history with the first IWGP title defense in Europe, where he beat Scott Norton in Milan, Italy, on June 4, 2005.
3. Won his third IWGP heavyweight title from Kensuke Sasaki on December 12, 2004.
4. Lost the IWGP title, but not his honor, in an epic fight with Kazuyuki Fujita July 18, 2005.
5. Went 59:45 against Satoshi Kojima that proved his incredible stamina, February 17, 2005.

**WHY HE'S NUMBER 10:** Solidified his position as the face of New Japan by defeating All Japan's Satoshi Kojima (his former tag team partner) and bringing the IWGP title back to New Japan ... The most important full-time star on the New Japan roster for the past year ... Has emerged from Masa Chono's shadow and established himself as a main event superstar in his own right ... Breaks opponents down with his chops and headbutts ... Former IWGP tag team titleholder in New Japan with a half-dozen reigns to his name, mostly with Masa Chono as his partner.

**WHERE HE'S HEADED:** Tenzan finally has the chance to put his name alongside the legends of puroresu like Kenta Kobashi and Keiji Muto by staying on top for a long successful run with New Japan Pro Wrestling. The next year will be very telling for this impressive heavyweight, as he's been on the brink of greatness for years, and at last seems poised to make a run of it. If he can stay injury-free, he has a chance of rising even higher in next year's "500."





**11 JEFF JARRETT** (5'10", 230, 19, 12) For better or for worse, Jeff Jarrett has been virtually synonymous with "NWA champion" for most of the past three years ... Lost the belt to A.J. Styles, who in turn lost it to Raven ... Jarrett has formed an alliance with Rhino to injure Raven and reclaim the NWA title ... Jarrett has won major titles in every promotion he has ever competed in and is a four-time former WCW World champ ... Recruited Scott Hall and Kevin Nash as The Kings of Wrestling, but the plan blew up in his face ... Still uses the stroke as his finisher—that is, when he's not bashing people with his guitars.

**12 ULTIMO GUERRERO** (6', 200, 15, 94) Top *rudo* of Mexico's CMLL, he is the most recognizable member of Los Guerreros del Infierno, a large stable that also includes his regular partner, Rey Bucanero ... Incredibly strong and durable wrestler whose matches this year against men like El Hijo del Santo and Místico drew rave reviews ... First wrestled under the name Condor Dorado ... A former CMLL tag team champion, he currently holds CMLL's light heavyweight title ... One of the few men to ever win a 16-man cibernetico tournament ... His reverse superplex from the top turnbuckle is a thing of beauty.

**13 CHRIS BENOIT** (5'10", 224, 19, 1) Last year's number one has struggled a bit since losing the World title to Randy Orton ... Last year we wondered if "the fact that he has finally attained his lifelong dream (will) weaken his resolve" ... Maybe it has, as "The Rabid Wolverine" has dropped out of title contention ... Drafted from Raw to Smackdown ... Competed in the

"Money In The Bank" ladder match at WrestleMania 21 ... Became a standard-bearer for the resurrected ECW in the spring of 2005 and beat Eddie Guerrero at One Night Stand ... Benoit is considered by many to be the sport's top technician and one of wrestling's most intense competitors.

**14 REY MISTERIO JR.** (5'3", 173, 14, 22) For years, everyone said the only thing keeping Rey from winning a world title was his size. Now it seems the only thing holding him back is Eddie Guerrero ... Scored a huge win over Eddie at WrestleMania 21 ... That win should have propelled him into contention for the WWE or World title ... Instead, Rey remained loyal to Eddie, and the opportunity passed him by ... Tormented by Eddie over some secret concerning his son ... Still the standard by which all other cruiserweights are measured ... Beat old ECW and AAA rival Psicosis at One Night Stand ... His 619 and West Coast pop guarantee a crowd reaction.

**15 EDDIE GUERRERO** (5'8", 223, 17, 2) Last year's number-two man has been in a rut ever since dropping the Smackdown title to JBL at the 2004 Great American Bash ... Took a conscious step away from the World title picture and formed a team with Rey Misterio Jr., but Eddie seemed to resent Rey and challenged him to a match at WrestleMania 21 ... Eddie lost, and after months of sulking, Eddie has finally become a full-fledged rulebreaker and is threatening to reveal some secret about Rey's son ... Wrestling with more intensity than he has in years, but it's hard to tell if he's still interested in regaining a World title or if he has his own sinister agenda.

**16 KENTA KOBASHI** (6'2", 262, 17, 4) Japanese fans have called him "the perfect champion" thanks to his recently ended two-year reign as NOAH's Global Honored Crown champion ... Lost the title to Takeshi Rikioh, who has had a hard time filling Kobashi's boots ... Has recovered from more knee surgeries than anyone cares to count ... One of the single most popular performers of the last decade ... Knocks opponents flat with his rough lariat ... A three-time former Triple Crown champion during his time with All-Japan Pro Wres-

ting ... Originated the burning hammer, an upside-down version of the Death Valley driver that ends like a brainbuster.

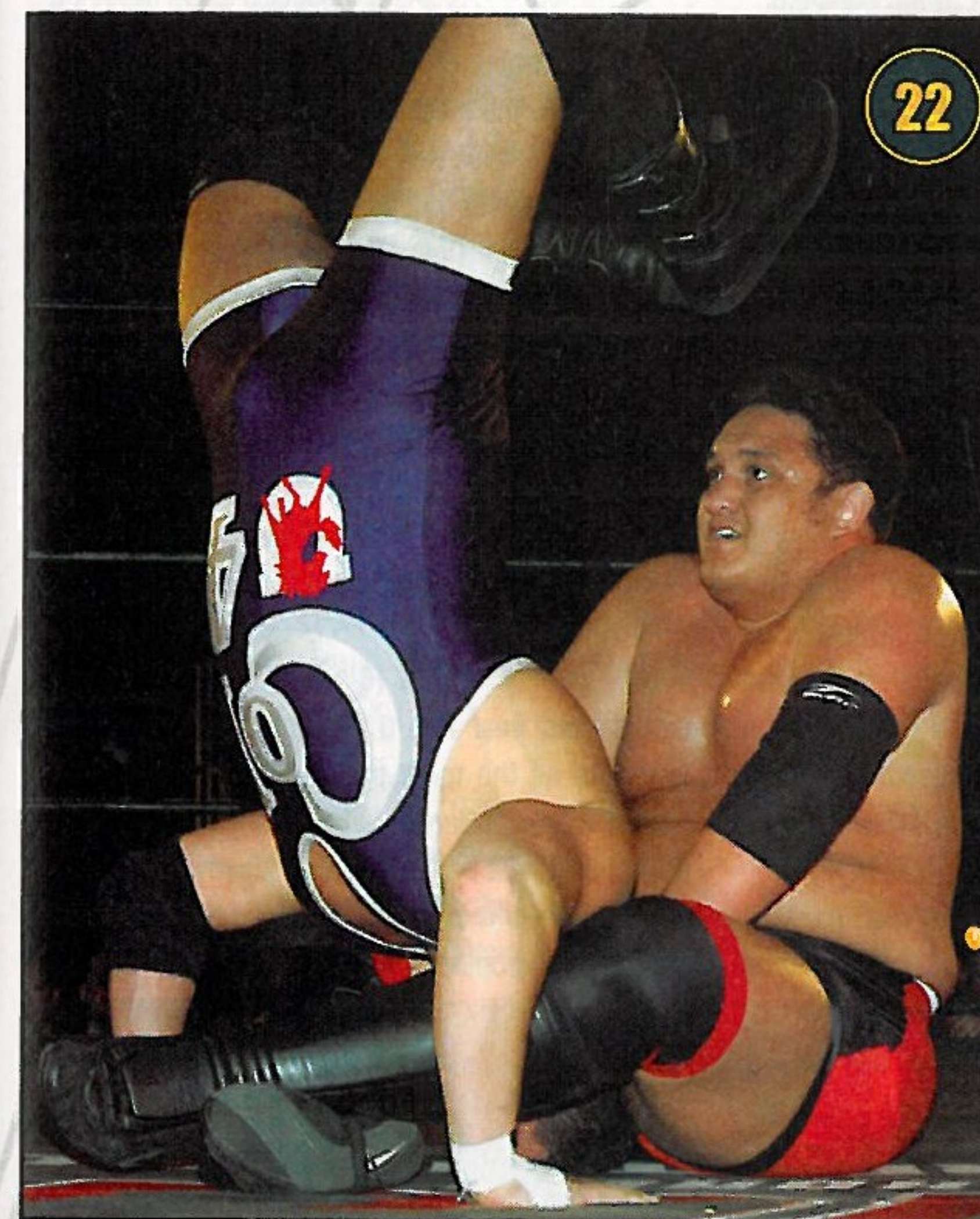
**17 CHRISTOPHER DANIELS** (6', 210, 12, 25) "The Fallen Angel" finally captured the NWA-TNA X division title at Destination X, but missed out on a match against his arch-rival A.J. Styles for the NWA title when Styles dropped the belt to Raven ... One of the most decorated wrestlers on the independent circuit ... Beat Styles for The Natural heavyweight title in July 2005 in Buffalo ... Always seems utterly relaxed in the ring ... The only two-time Super 8 tournament winner ... Daniels is a three-time NWA tag champion, a former ROH tag champion, and former 3PW champion ... His so-called best moonsault ever may be just that ... Other trademark moves are the Angel's wings and last rites.

**18 MISTICO** (5'7", 177, 7, NL) CMLL's most explosive wrestler ... High-flyer has quickly become the most talked-about Luchador active today ... Clad in silver and gold, this young aerialist has become a bona fide main event star at Arena Mexico, the premiere venue in all of Lucha Libre ... Sometimes teams with one of Mexico's other hot commodities, El Hijo del Santo ... Second generation grappler is the son of Dr. Karonte ... Not the first man to use the name Mistico, but certainly the most famous ... Captured the NWA middleweight title and has defended it in breathtaking bouts against men like Averno and Ultimo Guerrero.

**19 KANE** (6'7", 326, 11, 13) We thought Kane's personal life couldn't get any weirder than getting caught inside a burning funeral home as a boy and that whole Katie Vick fiasco a couple years ago ... Over the past year, Kane has injured Matt Hardy, married and impregnated Lita, feuded with Gene Snitsky over Lita's "miscarriage," and been dumped by Lita for Edge ... Remarkably, throughout all that drama, Kane remains a top contender to the WWE title ... Tombstone piledriver and choke-slam are match-enders no matter who you are ... "The Big Red Machine" is still driven to surpass his one-day WWE World title reign in 1998.

**20 BOOKER T** (6'3", 250, 15, 24) The five-time WCW World champion has run the gamut of emotions over the past year, contemplating retirement, getting married, and coming out on top in an intense feud with Kurt Angle ... One of the most decorated tag team competitors in wrestling, winning 11 WCW World tag titles and three WWE/Raw tag titles ... His Book-end uranage and ax kick are formidable finishers, as Angle will attest ... Having wife Sharmell at his side has brought out the best in Booker, but it might prove to be a liability in the long run ... A versatile competitor who could easily contend for—and win—another world championship before he's through.

**21 TIGER MASK IV** (5'7", 178, 15, 84) Became the first man in history to win back-to-back Best of the Super Junior Tournaments this summer with a triumph in the finals over Gedo ... Also holds the IWGP junior heavyweight championship, making him the division's undisputed kingpin ... The fourth in a line of men to assume the mantle of Tiger Mask, he was preceded in the role by fellow New Japan wrestler Koji Kanemoto ... In-ring style mirrors that of the original Tiger Mask, Satoru Sayama ... Left his training grounds of Michinoku Pro for a full-time contract with New Japan Pro Wrestling in 2002 ... Has invented a dangerous new move, which is a standing backflip into a double-knee-drop onto supine opponents ... Likes to put away foes with the Tiger suplex.



**22 SAMOA JOE** (6'3", 290, 5, 34) The big Samoan is one of the most versatile wrestlers you'll find anywhere ... Named the top brawler in the sport in *Inside Wrestling's* "2005 Insiders' Poll" ... Since losing the Ring of Honor title to Austin Aries in December, Joe has gone on to dominate the ROH pure division ... ROH's most prolific champion, Joe defended the title against the promotion's top challengers, including C.M. Punk, Homicide, Paul London, and others ... Trained in shootfighting under Bas Rutten ... Has an encyclopedic knowledge of chokes and submission holds, but also has incredible raw power ... Debuted for TNA in June 2005, destroying Sonjay Dutt ... Lost to Raven in an intense bout at a Warrior 1 Wrestling card in Ontario.

**23 PETEY WILLIAMS** (5'7", 179, 4, 178) Williams has had a remarkable year ... The inventor of wrestling's hottest move, the Canadian destroyer, held the TNA X title for five months ... He won the 2005

Super 8 Tournament, scoring wins over Rory Fox, Alex Shelley, and Puma ... Thanks to his incredible finisher, Petey is getting booked all over the country ... Won the NWA Upstate no limits title, beating Kevin Dunn ... Also held the BCW TV title ... The captain of TNA's Team Canada and one of Scott D'Amore's prized pupils ... A superior mat wrestler and technician ... Pound-for-pound, one of the best wrestlers in the world.

**24 EL HUO DEL SANTO** (5'6", 170, 23, 14) Son of the most famous Luchador of all-time, El Santo ... Teamed with the sensational Místico a number of times this year—the two have developed into an incredible pairing ... Mexico's most in-demand performer, this popular *tecnico* headlines shows all over his

native country and the United States ... Silver mask with teardrop-shaped eyes is among Lucha Libre's most recognizable ... Learned his trade under the name Korak so he would be aptly prepared to accept the mantle of Santo ... Recently held the CMLL tag team title with Negro Casas ... *El caballo*, the camel clutch, is the submission finisher he uses to this day, as it was passed to him by his father.

**25 CHRIS JERICHO** (5'10", 225, 15, 10) Y2J seems to be unable to make up his mind: Does he want to be a wrestling champion or a pop culture celebrity? ... The man who unified the WCW and WWE world titles back in 2001 spends more time playing with his band, Fozzy, hosting "The Highlight Reel," and appearing on VH-1 countdown shows

than chasing title belts ... You could see his heel turn coming a mile a way—that is, unless you're John Cena ... Still a viable contender to any title he chooses to pursue ... No one blends Mexican and Japanese influences with the American style better than Jericho.

**26 THE UNDERTAKER** (6'10", 328, 16, 23) "The Dead Man" overcame a major challenge at WrestleMania 21, beating Randy Orton to extend his 'Mania undefeated streak to 13-0 ... Has wrestled a part-time schedule for most of the past two years ... Dominated major feuds against Booker T, The Dudley Boyz, Heinrich, and Luther Reigns in the past year, but was unable to beat JBL for the WWE title ... A huge fan of mixed martial arts, Taker has incorporated several submission holds and chokes from MMA into his game, allowing him to work a style with fewer big bumps ... Still considered by many to be the locker room leader of WWE ... A perennial title threat.

**27 KENSUKE SASAKI** (5'10", 263, 19, 72) Former star of New Japan Pro Wrestling and WJ Pro has become an even bigger sensation since going freelance ... A four-time former IWGP heavyweight champion and protege of Riki Choshu ... Pops up in All-Japan Pro Wrestling from time to time, usually joined by his wife, retired wrestler Akira Hokuto ... Former partner of Hawk in The Hellraisers, when he was known as Power Warrior ... Sometimes wears a mask as Volcano ... Singles victory defending New Japan against All-Japan's Toshiaki Kawada remains the crowning moment of his career ... Favorite move is the Northern Lights bomb, a move invented by his wife.

**28 MONTY BROWN** (6'2", 275, 2, 101) Why, Monty, why? ... No one can really understand the rationale behind "The Alpha Male's" decision to join forces with Jeff Jarrett when he seemed to be on the verge of beating Jarrett for the NWA title ... Money talks, we guess ... Former NFL linebacker has drawn comparisons to Bill Goldberg ... Came of age by beating Sabu in an April 2004 falls-count-anywhere bout ... Has since collected major wins over Abyss and Raven ... Became the top contender to the title by beating Kevin Nash and Dallas Page at Final Resolution, but couldn't get the job done ... Finisher is the pounce.

**29 RANDY ORTON** (6'5", 265, 5, 5) A year ago, he was WWE's golden boy—and now he's trying to slowly climb back to the top ... Beat Chris Benoit for the World title at SummerSlam but lost it just a month later to Triple-H ... Orton's natural cockiness made it hard for fans to cheer him ... Began an on-screen relationship with Stacy Keibler, only to floor her with an RKO to prove a point to The Undertaker ... Gave UT a stiff challenge at WrestleMania 21, but came up short, injuring his shoulder in the process ... Third-generation competitor should become a major player for Smackdown once he's all healed up ... Still has awesome potential ... OWW finisher was a magnificent wheelbarrow suplex into a Boston crab that would look great on *Smackdown*.

**30 CHRISTIAN** (6'1", 225, 10, 31) Tyson Tomko may have been his "Problem Solver" for much of the last year, but Christian still seemed to get himself in his share of hot water ... Considered by some to be one of the most versatile wrestlers in WWE ... Three-time Intercontinental champion has also held the WWE/Raw tag team title on nine different occasions ... Perpetually underrated by both fans and peers, but tirelessly championed by his vocal "peeps" ... Deeply dislikes current WWE champion John Cena and challenged him to a "rap-off" at the 2005 Royal Rumble ... Recently drafted by Smackdown, with which he could finally get his due as a main-eventer.



**31 THE BIG SHOW** (7'2", 485, 10, 41) Raw's resident man-mountain has lost a bit of his edge since changing his rulebreaking ways and being drafted away from Smackdown ... Lost his hair to Kurt Angle and Angle's trusty tranquilizer gun ... Show got revenge on Angle in the ring, but was unable to wrest the WWE title away from JBL ... Show's erratic efforts have hindered his career for years, and the past year was no different ... Was game enough to face sumo legend Akebono at WrestleMania and acquitted himself very well against the sumo grand champion, but most fans considered their sumo match a joke ... Still has the most effective choke-slam in the business ... Ought to slim down a bit to alleviate stress on his back and knees.

**32 NAOMICHI MARUFUJI** (5'11", 211, 7, 55) Top junior heavyweight of the NOAH promotion has turned into the company's breakout star over the last two years ... His tag team with fellow junior heavyweight KENTA is a sensation in Japan that has been honored as the best duo by magazines, newspapers, and fans alike ... Holds the GHC tag title with new partner Minoru Suzuki ... Won the 2004 Super J Cup Tournament held by Osaka Pro, as well as the 2005 Differ Cup with KENTA ... Known for his baggy pants and wild hair ... Had some spectacular matches against Ricky Marvin and Juventud Guerrera ... Quick high-flyer has a great dropkick and perfect suicide dives ... Former junior heavyweight champion in NOAH ... Finisher is the *shiranui*.

**33 MUHAMMAD HASSAN** (6'2", 230, 3, 136) The former Mark Magnus may have a point about being discriminated against, but he's certainly not winning any sympathy ... Trained by Nick "Eugene" Dinsmore ... Has become one of the most controversial characters in WWE in years, claiming to be a U.S. citizen of Middle Eastern descent facing prejudice in the aftermath of 9/11 ... The cover story doesn't forgive his heel tactics or the persistent interference of manager Daivari ... Usually weakens opponents' backs with chinlocks and abdominal stretches before applying his camel clutch ... Still a bit green and hesitant in the ring, but what can you expect from a third-year wrestler who has already battled Hulk Hogan, Shawn Michaels, and Steve Austin?

**34 SHAWN MICHAELS** (6', 217, 22, 9) Is there any man who has better personified the term "intestinal fortitude" than "The Heartbreak Kid"? ... Cumulative back injuries had Michaels looking at retirement in 1998, but since he has returned, he has regained the World title, beaten Triple-H, headlined WrestleMania, teamed with Hulk Hogan, and wrestled two Match of the Year contenders against Kurt Angle ... He even re-formed The Rockers with Marty Jannetty for one night going into WrestleMania ... Sacrificing bulk

and muscle to streamline his physique and improve his quickness turned out to be a great decision ... A true Hall of Famer.

**35 LA PARK** (6', 230, 23, 38) Former independent star has become a regular headliner for CMLL at Arena Mexico ... Wrestled for years as the original La Parka, but litigation with AAA owner Antonio Pena over rights to the Parka name resulted in his new moniker ... Was teaming with Shocker before Shocker departed for AAA ... Former "Chairman Of WCW" still appears in the United States from time to time ... Surprisingly agile for a man his size, he frequently dives from the ring with twisting planchas ... Broke from Lucha tradition a few years back by revealing his real name of Adolfo Tapia to fans ... Favorite finisher is the high-speed sunset flip called *yoshi* tonic, but he's best known for his skill swinging a steel chair.

**36 PAUL LONDON** (5'10", 205, 5, 82) The secret to London's recent singles success must be the fringe ... Started showing a bit more personality, and his wild side, after splitting with Kidman and now wears Ultimate Warrior-esque fringed boots and a furry cape ... Still won't forgive Kidman for walking away from their championship team ... A beloved alumnus from Ring of Honor and the ECWA Super 8 champion in 2003 ... Struggled in WWE early on, particularly in his first televised match, in which he was squashed by Brock Lesnar, but he has turned the corner ... One of Smackdown's most exciting athletes, London is poised to be the face of the cruiserweight division for the foreseeable future.

**37 ABYSS** (6'4", 295, 6, 56) The man-monster surprised insiders by returning to TNA and brutalizing Jeff Hardy after seemingly parting ways with the company in January 2005 ... Awesome brute power gives his choke-slam, black hole slam, and sit-out backbreaker career-ending capability ... Willing to face any opponent in any kind of match, making him a promoter's dream and an opponent's nightmare ... His look is a hybrid between the old Kane and Mankind ... Lost a "Serengeti Survival" match to Monty Brown but beat Jeff Hardy in a "Full Metal Mayhem" bout ... Won a 20-man "Gauntlet For The Gold" battle royal at Hard Justice 2005 to become top contender to the NWA title.

**38 REY BUCANERO** (5'11", 197, 14, NL) One-half of Mexico's hottest duo with Ultimo Guerrero, they are known as Los Guerreros del Infierno ... Nephew of legendary

Luchador Pirata Morgan ... Learned the ropes as Morgan's partner before losing his mask and adopting a new ring style ... Held both the CMLL tag team and trios titles in the past ... Bounced back nicely from a harrowing leg injury that sidelined him for a good part of 2004 ... Briefly appeared with WWE during the heyday of its *SuperAstros* program of the late-1990s under the name Ray Ortiz ... Sometimes dons face paint for his matches in Mexico ... Has wrestled for New Japan Pro Wrestling, the Toryumon, and all over the globe ... Almost always appears in multiple-man matches ... Top-rope power bomb finisher is as solid as they come.

**39 JUSHIN LIGER** (5'6", 208, 22, 53) His horned mask and red and white attire are among the most recognizable in all of pro wrestling ... "Thunder" Liger is easily the most influential junior heavyweight of the 1990s ... Fared well in this year's Best of the Super Junior Tournament, but was defeated by ultimate winner and new rival Tiger Mask IV ... Has held the IWGP junior title 10 times in his career, and an 11th title win here in the States isn't recognized in his homeland ... Part of the growing CTU stable in New Japan ... Has held titles in NOAH (junior heavyweight) and Osaka Pro (tag team) as well ... Inventor of the Liger bomb and shooting star press ... Revered for his precision palm strikes to the head and his lethal brainbusters.

**40 C.M. PUNK** (6'1", 220, 7, 89) And we thought *last* year was a breakout year for Punk ... Emerged as the most popular wrestler in Ring of Honor, thanks in large part to his intense marathon matches against Samoa Joe and his impeccable mike skills ... Became part of a bidding war between TNA and WWE and opted for the WWE deal ... Beat Austin Aries for the ROH heavyweight title and then hastily left the building, turning heel and stealing the belt ... Vocal about his "straight edge," drug-free lifestyle ... Very versatile, Punk can go from being beloved to despised in about five seconds flat ... Pepsi plunge has been an effective finishing move.



**41 CARLITO CARIBBEAN COOL** (6', 220, 5, 166) The son of Puerto Rican legend Carlos Colon had a huge year, showing up on *Smackdown* and beating John Cena for the U.S. title in his very first televised bout ... Was recently drafted by Raw and won the Intercontinental title from Shelton Benjamin in his first Raw bout ... Months earlier, he suffered an injury to his left shoulder but continued to be a focal point of *Smackdown* telecasts with his petition to remove Teddy Long as Smackdown GM ... Showed a lot of moxie by interrupting the "Piper's Pit" segment at WrestleMania 21, though Piper and Steve Austin made him regret it ... Was part of Kurt Angle's anti-ECW contingent at One Night Stand ... Has made frequent appearances in Puerto Rico since making his WWE debut ... Single-handedly made eating apples cool.

**42 MITSU HARU MISAWA** (6'1", 238, 25, 143) Started his career under the guise of Tiger Mask II in All-Japan Pro Wrestling before beefing up and joining the heavyweights ... Founder and top star of Pro Wrestling NOAH ... The definitive Japanese heavyweight of the 1990s, he is a former Triple Crown champion as well as a former Global Honored Crown champ ... Still dons his familiar green and white tights ... Wrestled in England and Germany this past year, a first for Misawa ... Lost the GHC title to Kenta Kobashi in an instant classic back in 2003 ... Regularly teams with Yoshinari Ogawa ... Feared for his trademark elbow strikes ... Inventor of the emerald erosion and the neck-crushing Tiger driver '91.

**43 DR. WAGNER JR.** (5'9", 216, 19, 162) Veteran CMLL *rudo* returned to the limelight after a sluggish 2004 ... Became a favorite of Mexican fans after the death of his legendary father, the original Dr.



Wagner, but his *rudo* style hasn't changed a bit ... Won last year's Grand Prix Tournament at Arena Mexico by defeating Ultimo Dragon ... Brother of fellow Luchador Silver King ... Former IWGP junior tag champ with one-time partner Kendo Ka Shin for New Japan Pro Wrestling ... Known for his brutal overhand chops and drop-kicks ... Like many of Mexico's evil medics, Wagner is usually decked out in his all-white mask and singlet ... Loves to make opponents tap out to his Wagnerlock, a rolling ground octopus hold ... Signature impact move is the Michinoku driver.

**44 WILLIAM REGAL** (5'10", 255, 22, NL) The Blackpool, England, native is back in action full-time after dealing with serious health issues in 2003 ... Recently wrote his autobiography, *Walking A Golden Mile* ... Got his start in wrestling on the rough and tough British shootfighting circuit ... A former Intercontinental champion, four-time WCW TV champion, three-time WWE European champion, and four-time Raw tag champion ... His most recent pairing with Tajiri fell apart when Regal sided with Eric Bischoff's anti-ECW Crusaders ... The move from Raw to Smackdown gives him a chance at winning the U.S. title ... His British style is in vogue on the indy scene, so Regal might be on the verge of another solid push.

**45 RAVEN** (6'1", 243, 18, 35) The brooding loner finally "fulfilled his destiny" by winning the NWA heavyweight title at Slammiversary ... One of the most charismatic performers and best interview men in the business ... The inventor of "Raven's rules" bouts and his barbaric "Clockwork Orange House Of Fun" matches ... It's remarkable that he can still compete at this level considering all of the punishment his body has taken through the years ... Continues to feud with James Mitchell and Abyss ... Evenflow DDT is probably the best DDT wrestling has seen since the heyday of Jake Roberts ... Was sorely missed at the One Night Stand PPV.

**46 TOSHI AKI KAWADA** (5'10", 240, 24, 6) All-Japan Pro Wrestling's homegrown "Ace" announced that he had been working for years without a contract, and declared himself a freelance operative this year ... Former Triple Crown champion who made his name in the rings of All-Japan ... Remained on with All-Japan after the NOAH exodus led by Mitsuharu Misawa ... Sometimes appears with the offbeat Hustle group, a bizarre sports entertainment offshoot ... Known for his trademark yellow and black ring attire and his signature kicks to the face and head ... Has had classic matches with men like Misawa, Kenta Kobashi, Hiroshi Hase, and Genichiro Tenryu ... His favorite hold is the stretch plum, a head and arm submission ... Finishing move is the brainbuster.

**47 HECTOR GARZA** (5'10", 202, 13, 19) Former top star of AAA moved to CMLL in the past year, where he's among the promotion's most despised *rudos* ... This doesn't stop the cheers from his loyal contingent of female fans ... Forms La Furia del Norte along with El Terrible and Tarzan Boy ... Stint with TNA in the United States came to an end when Garza encountered some border-crossing drug problems ... Son of Luchador Humberto Garza ... First gained fame here during the heyday of the WCW cruiserweight division on *Nitro* years ago, when he was renowned for his daring corkscrew plancha from the tumblebug to the floor ... Appeared in a trios match at the 1997 Royal Rumble ... Has a beautiful Cancun tornado press and a picture-perfect moonsault press.

**48 CHAVO GUERRERO JR.** (5'7", 210, 12, 17) Second-generation Luchador established himself as the elder statesman of the WWE cruiserweight division ... Was embraced by the fans after returning from a concussion suffered at the hands—or should we say, the knees—of Billy Kidman, courtesy of an errant shooting star press, but quickly returned to his lying, cheating, and stealing ways ... Never fully recovered from his loss to Uncle Eddie Guerrero at the 2004 Royal Rumble ... Four-time WCW/WWE cruiserweight champion now calls himself Kerwin White, but we'll see if that lasts ... Has also competed in both Mexico and Japan.

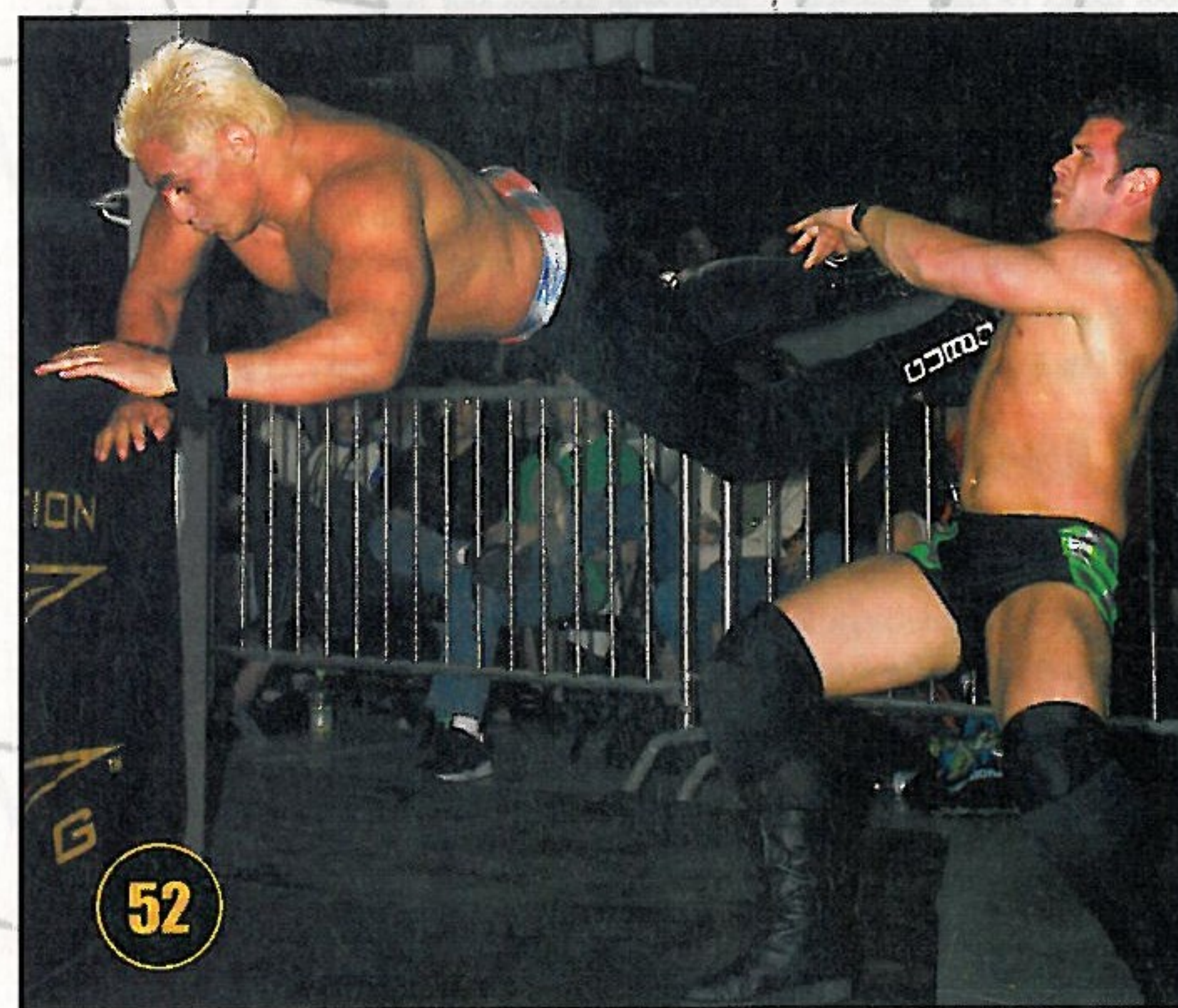
**49 TAJIRI** (5'7", 224, 11, 42) They say when a door closes, a window opens, and when Tajiri's team with William Regal started to run out of steam, the ECW reunion earned him a fresh push ... "The Japanese Buzzsaw" got a chance to renew his epic rivalry with Super Crazy at One Night Stand ... Fared well for himself in a pair of ECW rules bouts against Chris Benoit on *Raw* prior to the PPV ... An accomplished kickboxer, Tajiri is a former U.S., cruiserweight, and ECW TV champion ... Winning the Raw tag belts with Regal in Japan was a career highlight ... Green mist and more toxic black mist are just as dangerous as his vicious roundhouse kicks to the head.

**50 RON KILLINGS** (6'1", 230, 8, 18) "The Sun-Tanned Superman" has dropped 32 spots since last year, mostly because he hasn't been challenging for the NWA heavyweight title recently ... A two-time NWA champion and former WWF hardcore champion, as well as an NWA tag champ ... The first African-American NWA heavyweight champion ... Beat Johnny Swinger in the first round of The Natural title tournament at the Ballpark Brawl in Buffalo, then fought Abyss to a double-countout ... Incredible cardiovascular conditioning ... Part of 3 Live Kru with Konnan and B.G. James ... Has perhaps the best scissors kick in the sport.



**51 RIC FLAIR** (6'1", 243, 32, 30) The "Nature Boy" may be a bit older and quite a bit slower than he was in his prime, but he's still capable of taking most wrestlers to school ... Semi-retired at this point, but we suspect Flair will always be climbing back into the ring for some stylin' and profilin' ... Wrestled a tremendous bout against Kurt Angle in June 2005 ... Seems content to be a mentor to Triple-H, but has proven capable of holding his own against WWE's elite ... Now that Hulk Hogan is back in WWE, we have to wonder if we're finally going to see Flair vs. Hogan at a WrestleMania ... Widely considered to be wrestling's all-time greatest ring general.

**52 SHOCKER** (5'8", 191, 13, 68) Charismatic CMLL star packed his bags and jumped to AAA in the spring along with his friend Vampiro ... Gained tremendous mainstream visibility as the star of a McDonald's commercial this past year ... Earned a spot in TNA and battled Christopher Daniels for the X title ... Sometimes accompanied to the ring by his father, retired Luchador Ruben Soria ... Has wrestled in Japan as well ... Goes back and forth between the *rudos* and *tecnicos*, but nothing diminishes his incredible popularity ... Lost his mask in 1999 to former partner Mr. Niebla ... Former leader of Los Guapos, a now-largely defunct CMLL stable ... Has a spectacular flying bodypress ... Pet submission hold is a wild stretch known as *la reinera*.



**53 SHINJIRO OTANI** (5'8", 224, 14, 87) Became a headliner with Zero-One, and when that company crumbled, Otani opened up Zero-One Max, using almost all of the same talent ... Now splits his time between the ring and running his new promotion ... A former junior heavyweight with New Japan Pro Wrestling, he left after a dispute with Riki Choshu ... Held the IWGP junior heavyweight title during the days

of the eight-title J-Crown ... Long-time partner of Masato Tanaka, Otani now leads his Otani-gun stable against Tanaka's Erotics ... Pet submission is his cobra hold ... Doesn't do as much flying as he did when he was 30 pounds lighter, but still has an awesome Dragon suplex in his repertoire ... One of the most well-rounded athletes in Japan.

**54 MATT MORGAN** (7', 330, 3, 49) The former *Tough Enough* contender developed a *st-st*-stuttering problem in recent months ... A former stand-out basketball player at Monmouth University ... First WWE run culminated at the 2003 Survivor Series, at which he teamed with Brock Lesnar, The Big Show, and Nathan Jones ... Returned to OVW, where he won the heavyweight title ... Vowed to "never show his face in OVW again" if he lost to Chris Cage ... After losing to Cage, began hiding his face under a mask as The Blueprint ... Second (brief) WWE run ended with his release in July ... Stall suplex into a Rock bottom variation is a visually stunning finisher.

**55 BOBBY RUDE** (6'1", 235, 7, 163) Spell his last name any way you like, it doesn't change the fact that Rude is the powerhouse of Team Canada ... Held the NWA tag title with "Showtime" Eric Young ... Trained by Val Venis and Shane Sewell ... Became the first Canadian ever invited to participate in the Super 8 Tournament in 2002 ... A native of Peterborough, Ontario ... Used to compete regularly in WWE dark matches and appeared on *Heat* and *Velocity* several times ... Held the BCW tag title with Petey Williams ... Has competed throughout North America, from the Canadian Maritimes to Puerto Rico.

**56 EUGENE** (6', 226, 8, 21) The "wrestling savant" was almost fully recovered at press time from the ruptured patella tendon he suffered at New Year's Revolution ... Despite that injury, Eugene still had a big WrestleMania moment this year, helping Hulk Hogan clear the ring of Hassan and Daivari and soaking in the adulation of the capac-

ity crowd ... The eight-time OVW heavyweight champion was formerly known as "Mr. Wrestling" due to his technical mastery ... His scientific skills should never be underestimated, as no matter how silly he may act, Eugene can compete against the best of them—just ask Triple-H ... Trained by OVW owner Danny Davis.

**57 MASA CHONO** (5'11", 245, 22, 103)

Iconic star of New Japan Pro Wrestling has been battling neck and back injuries for years, but refuses to slow down ... Tag team specialist has held the IWGP tag title six times, four with partner Hiro Yoshi Tenzan ... Leads the CTU stable that also includes Jushin Liger, Gedo, and Jado ... His *kekka* kick has become the bane of virtually all New Japan wrestlers ... Appeared in a number of  *puroresu*  dream matchups, opposite top stars like Mitsuharu Misawa and Kenta Kobashi ... Trained in the same group as Keiji Muto and Shinya Hashimoto—the trio is sometimes called The Three Musketeers ... Made sporadic appearances in WCW during the 1990s ... Learned the STF from Lou Thesz, and even wrestled Thesz in his retirement match.

**58 JEFF HARDY** (6'2", 212, 11, NL) The enigmatic one came into TNA riding a wave of momentum, but he quickly saw that disappear ... Signed with TNA in July 2004 and was granted an immediate title shot by Director of Authority Dusty Rhodes ... Failed to beat Jeff Jarrett despite several opportunities ... Beat Scott Hall at Final Resolution and fared well in an intense feud with Abyss ... Hardy's infamously odd behavior landed him in hot water with TNA brass when he no-showed the Hard Justice PPV, apparently because of transportation problems ... His swanton bomb is still a dazzling finisher ... Career could have undergone another rebirth if brother Matt had shown up in TNA.

**59 MICHAEL SHANE** (6', 221, 5, 27) Shane's career has stagnated somewhat since he parted ways with Shane Douglas, who had picked him to be "The New Franchise" in TNA ... Spent most of the past year teaming with Frankie Kazarian, a man with whom he shared the X division title at one point ... Trained by Shawn Michaels and Rudy Boy Gonzales ... Competed as Omega Griffon for All-Japan ... Has appeared in WWE dark matches, ECW, FMW, Zero-One, and ROH ... His "Sweet Shane Music" superkick and flying elbow are tributes to Michaels ... Reunited with Tracy Brooks at Hard Justice when Tracy turned against Chris Sabin during an intergender tag match ... Currently the top contender in NWA Cyberspace.

**60 ERIC YOUNG** (6', 218, 5, 181) "Showtime" has had a huge influence on the fortunes of Team Canada ... Canadian competitor has been wowing fans throughout Ontario for years, particularly during his red-hot feud with Derek Wyld ... Trained by Carl Leduc and Waldo Von Erich, as well as Scott D'Amore ... Finishing move of choice is the Showstopper ... Teamed with Bobby Rude to win the NWA tag title at Turning Point 2004 ... Young is perhaps the most versatile member of Team Canada, a ladder match specialist with strong mat skills, impressive aerial ability, and the mind of a true ring general ... Was the head trainer of the Wrestleplex school in Toronto.

**61 ELIX SKIPPER** (5'10", 228, 5, 81) "Prime Time's" awe-inspiring cage walk and huracanrana at Turning Point was the most talked-about move of 2004 ... Like Jimmy Snuka's famous steel cage splash, that one move might eclipse everything else he ever accomplishes ... Like Snuka, Skipper lost that match ... One of the most athletic men in the sport ... Trained at the WCW Power Plant and debuted as a member of Lance Storm's Team Canada faction ... Skipper is a former WCW cruiserweight champion and cruiserweight tag champion with Kid Romeo ... Has struggled mightily since he and Christopher Daniels were forced to break apart as a team ... Finisher is the play of the day ... Could benefit by becoming a tad more aggressive.

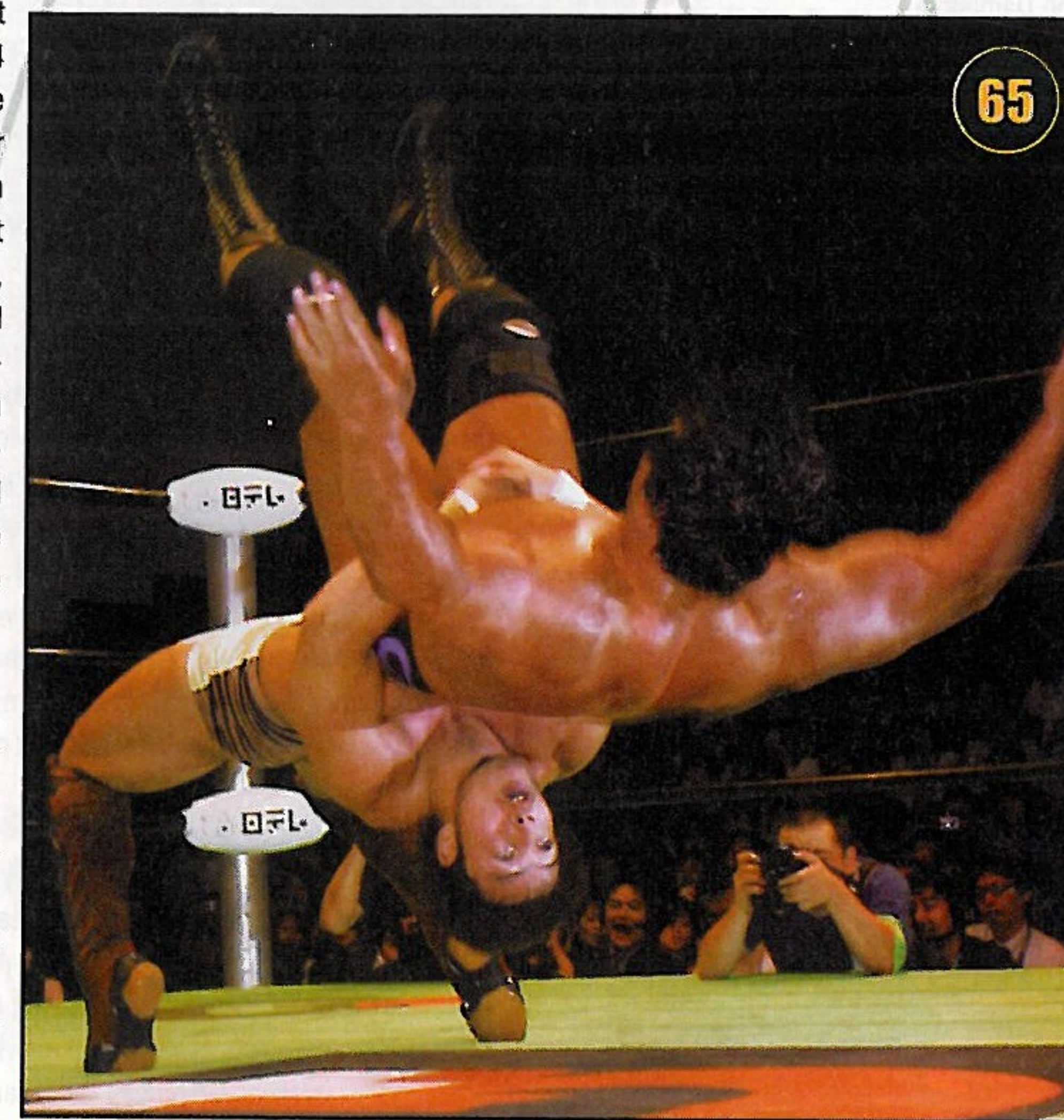
**62 AUSTIN ARIES** (5'9", 202, 4, 225) The former ROH heavyweight champion jumped 163 spots in this year's "PWI 500" ... Defeated Samoa Joe for the ROH belt at Final Battle 2004 ... First earned national attention at the 2004 Super 8 Tournament, in which he made it to the finals with wins over Shawn (Khosrow) Daivari and John Walters ... Defended the ROH belt against American Dragon, Homicide, Spanky, Joe, and others ... Usurped Alex Shelley as the leader of Generation Next ... A staunch vegetarian ... Has a massive move set, including his 450 splash, brainbuster, and tomado plancha ... A true star on the rise, Aries has the potential to be the next A.J. Styles.

**63 ROBERT CONWAY** (6', 240, 8, 45) The man formerly known as "Iron Man" seems happy to be away from his former La Resistance running buddies ... Beat partner Sylvan Grenier in a one-on-one match on a July 2005 edition of *Sunday Night Heat* ... A nine-time OVW Southern tag team champion with Nick "Eugene" Dinsmore and three-time OVW heavyweight champion ... Was once a part of Bolin Services alongside John "Prototype" Cena ... Was part of Eric Bischoff's anti-ECW Crusaders at One Night Stand ... Typically targets opponents' necks with swinging neckbreakers and DDTs.

**64 PERRO AGUAYO JR.** (5'9", 200, 10, NL) Son of Perro Aguayo recently teamed with his semi-retired father ... Their feud with Los Hermanos Dinamitas climaxed in a double-hair loss for the Dinamitas in February ... A former National tag team and National light heavyweight champion ... Wildly charismatic *rudo* has become a favorite of lots of Lucha fans ... Jumped from AAA to the independents in 2003, and then arrived in CMLL shortly thereafter ... Wears the same furry boots made famous by his legendary father ... Hot

temper has caused this young Luchador plenty of problems, as he's bloodied his foes with chairs, tables, and even a VCR of late ... Pet finisher is the double-foot stomp known as *la lanza*.

**65 KENTA** (5'10", 195, 7, NL) One of the new stars to emerge from Mitsuharu Misawa's Pro Wrestling NOAH group, KENTA, a protege of Kenta Kobashi, has quickly become a junior heavyweight sensation ... Tag team with Naomichi Marufuji was named the best in Japan for a number of years running ... They were the first GHC junior tag team champions ... Specializes in hard strikes, particularly kicks ... Won this year's Differ Cup tag team tournament with Marufuji—they beat Minoru Fujita and Ikuto Hidaka in a spectacular match ... Spent a good part of the year chasing Yoshinobu Kanemaru and the Global Honored Crown junior title ... Just beginning to show how good he can be.



**66 DOUG BASHAM** (6'2", 245, 12, 63) The elder Basham has been wrestling since 1992 ... Trained by his uncle Danny Davis ... Won his first OVW heavyweight title in July 1998 and went on to hold that championship four times ... A true student of the game, Basham has underrated technical skills and was considered the ring general of the Basham Brothers tag team ... Previously managed by Victoria, Miss Jackie, Nikita, and Shaniqua ... Maybe a ladies' man gimmick is in order ... Joined JBL's Cabinet in the summer of 2004 and was instrumental in helping Layfield hold on to the WWE title for so long.

**67 CHRIS HARRIS** (6'2", 238, 4, 44) "The Wildcat" is one of TNA's homegrown stars, along with America's Most Wanted partner James Storm ... Ac-

tually signed with WCW in 2000 and was assigned to Nashville, but never got the callup before the company folded ... AMW are five-time NWA tag champions ... Harris also held the title with Elix Skipper ... Harris is considered by most insiders to be the workhorse of the team ... Finishing move is the Catatonic ... Harris came extremely close to winning the NWA title on a few occasions in early-2004, but he seems much more comfortable teaming with Storm ... Was rumored to be at the heart of a bidding war between TNA and WWE, but Harris was content to stay with TNA.

**68 CHARLIE HAAS** (6'2", 265, 9, 40) The former Seton Hall collegiate standout is a superlative tag team wrestler ... After years of teaming with his brother, Russ, Haas found championship gold alongside both Shelton Benjamin and the effeminate Rico ... Enjoyed moderate success with Hardcore Holly as a partner before WWE released him ... Ruined the biggest can't-miss scenario since the WCW/ECW invasion by publicly spurning both Miss Jackie and Dawn Marie, causing red-blooded males everywhere to wonder if Haas has been spending just a tad too much time with Rico ... A fantastic technical wrestler seeking an opportunity to excel.

**69 CHRIS SABIN** (6', 215, 5, 32) Former TNA X champion is one of the standout graduates of Scott D'Amore's Can-Am Wrestling School in Windsor, Ontario ... Had to forfeit the X title due to injury ... Has the poise of a veteran despite being just 22 years old ... Won the 2003 Super X Cup Tournament ... A former Border City Wrestling TV champion ... Known as "The Future," he was

an integral part of Team NWA in 2004 and has excelled against international competition.

**70 AVERNO** (5'7", 183, 10, NL) One-half of the CMLL tag team champions along with Mephisto ... Rose through the ranks steadily over the last two years and is finally a main event player ... Began his career as Rencor Latino ... Spent a few years in trios matches with Satanico, but got a new mask and look after forging out on his own ... He and Mephisto are considered second only to the tag team of Ultimo Guerrero and Rey Bucanero in Mexico ... Had an outstanding singles match against the high-flying Mistico in April ... Favorite finisher starts like the pedigree, but he pulls his opponents straight up like a piledriver, and then sits down.



**71 JAMES STORM** (6', 225, 4, 64) "The Tennessee Cowboy" is the Jim Neidhart to Chris Harris' Bret Hart ... America's Most Wanted have been TNA's most enduring—and successful—tag team ... The stronger member of AMW, Storm has proven capable of standing toe-to-toe with big brawlers like Lance Hoyt and the Harris brothers ... Showed great maturity as he stood aside and watched as his partner chased the NWA heavyweight title ... AMW was named Tag Team of the Year by *PWI* readers in 2004 ... Currently feuding with The Naturals.

**72 DANNY BASHAM** (6'3", 250, 6, 67) The taller of the two Basham brothers was the enforcer in JBL's Cabinet ... Formerly known as The Damaja in Ohio Valley Wrestling ... Three-time OVW heavyweight champ has had a love-hate relationship with "brother" Doug, with whom he feuded in OVW ... His old brain Damaja variation of the Baldo bomb is a lethal finisher and greatly contributed to the Bashams' success ... Two-time Smackdown tag team

champ showed signs of frustration, both with JBL and with Doug in recent months ... Prefers do to his talking in the ring, as he barely makes a peep during most of his WWE appearances.

**73 KAZ HAYASHI** (5'8", 187, 13, 118) Began his career in Michinoku Pro as Shiryu, before leaving Japan for WCW ... Wrestled in Mexico before giving up his mask and wrestling under his given name ... Was briefly in the WWE developmental program after WCW was bought out ... Joined All-Japan Pro Wrestling under his mentor, Keiji Muto, and has become a junior heavyweight standout ... Sometimes teams with Spanky as a pretty boy duo loved by female fans ... Was a double tag team champion with Satoshi Kojima last year ... Has wrestled in past Best of the Super Junior and Super J Cup Tournaments ... Can execute a great slingshot DDT.

**74 JOEY MERCURY** (5'9", 213, 9, 156) Formerly known as Joey Matthews, Mercury has finally arrived in WWE after brief stints in both ECW and WCW and having been previously been cut from the WWE developmental roster ... Extremely innovative competitor is known as a tag team specialist, but he has also held the 3PW heavyweight and several light heavyweight titles ... Broke into wrestling as a teenager and has almost a full decade of experience under his belt, despite his young age ... A true survivor.

**75 THE HURRICANE** (6'1", 210, 14, 58) Not since Superman first hooked up with Lois Lane has a mild-mannered superhero gotten himself such a hot piece of arm candy (we mean Stacy Keibler, not Rosey) ... He and Rosey have taken advantage of a relatively weak Raw tag team division and established themselves as that brand's top tandem ... Has held numerous titles throughout his career, including WCW and WWE cruiserweight and hardcore titles and the WWE European championship ... A big fan of Japanese wrestling, Hurricane likes to incorporate  *puroresu*  moves such as the shining wizard and verte-breaker into his arsenal when possible.

**76 AMERICAN DRAGON** (5'8", 190, 4, 77) Bryan Danielson has got-

ten creepier in the past few months, sporting the latest in Unabomber face fashion ... His increased intensity has manifested as brutality during his matches ... Uses his cattle mutilation finisher and Dragon suplex with glee ... Competes all over the world, from Japan to England ... Technical prowess has made him a favorite in Japan as well as with ROH fans and the tape-trading set ... A student of the British style even though he's from the state of Washington ... Could easily replace Chris Benoit as the WWE's resident "ground and pound" wrestler.

**77 MEPHISTO** (5'7", 191, 17, NL) Former undercard star rose to prominence with new partner Averno, and the two have finally captured the CMLL tag title ... A second generation star, he is the son of former wrestler Kahoz, better known as Astro Rey ... Started his wrestling career under the name Kahoz Jr. before reinventing himself ... Also a former CMLL welterweight champion ... Thick, muscular Luchador has a creepy skull mask with devil horns on it ... No longer affiliated with Satanico, but he was part of a past incarnation of Satanico's  *Infernales*  ... Favorite move is the power bomb.

**78 HARDCORE HOLLY** (6'1", 249, 12, 54) Cranky veteran may have peaked in early-2004 with his feud with then-WWE champ Brock Lesnar ... Deserves credit for being able to give Lesnar a competitive match, but was never seen as a legitimate threat to Lesnar's title ... Better known for roughing up young stars than his in-ring exploits ... Some might say he's just a veteran who is passionate about the business ... Alabama slam is a brutal and impressive finisher ... A former hardcore and tag team champion ... Had a decent run teaming with Charlie Haas.

**79 FRANKIE KAZARIAN** (6'1", 220, 9, 50) The former TNA X division champ surprisingly requested his release from TNA to pursue a WWE developmental contract ... Think that had anything to do with the fact he and his partner, Michael Shane, were feuding with—and losing to—NASCAR personality Jeff Hammond? ... Has debuted in Ohio Valley Wrestling, but he could well show up in WWE before he's involved in any major OVW feud ... Slightly bigger than many of his old X division opponents, Kazarian wouldn't look out of place against Shelton Benjamin or Randy Orton.

**80 JOHNNY NITRO** (6', 204, 2, 160) Talk about a makeover: Johnny Nitro went from being Eric Bischoff's apprentice/lackey on  *Raw*  to championship gold in his first televised Smackdown match ... Along with Matt Cappotelli, won  *Tough Enough III*  (as John Hennigan) to earn a WWE contract ... A stint in OVW served Nitro well, as he streamlined his physique and picked up some finesse and seasoning ... Still prone to making rookie mistakes, however ... The power merchant of M-N-M is poised to become the first  *TE*  alumnus to make a major impact on the WWE roster.

**81 SPANKY** (5'8", 184, 6, 83) This flake has been enjoying life on the independent scene ... Spends much of his time wrestling for ROH, FIP, and everywhere in between ... Trained by Shawn Michaels, but skipped the class on how to make the most of a WWE contract ... Adored by the Japanese female fans because of his striking resemblance to Leonardo DiCaprio ... Beat Ryoji Sai to win the Zero-One U.S. title in Hakodate, Japan ... Has popularized the sliced bread #2, making it one of the most popular finishers around.

**82 BRENT ALBRIGHT** (6', 230, 3, 176) "The Shooter" has been heating things up in OVW recently and has won both the TV and heavyweight title this year ... Trained in part by Mike Modest in APW ...



Was previously known as Vinnie Valentino, Smoke, and Slater Vain ... Beat Matt Morgan for the OVW title in April ... Albright is well-schooled in submission grappling and is able to apply his Fujiwara armbar finisher at a moment's notice ... Has made several WWE dark match appearances ... A former OCW heavyweight champion and three-time OCW tag champ ... Now feuding with Lance Cade.

**83 GENE SNITSKY** (6'4", 310, 4, 301) Last year at this time, Snitsky was just another muscleman toiling away on the OVW undercard ... His career was changed forever in his first  *Raw*  match, as he accidentally pushed Kane into a pregnant Lita,

causing her to suffer a miscarriage ... Adopted "It wasn't my fault!" as his catchphrase, apparently not considering T-shirt sales ... Came up short in his feud with Kane before a torn abdominal muscle put him on the disabled list ... Returned to WWE in June ... He may catch a lot of flak, but given his size, it's impossible to not take him seriously.

**84 TAKESHI RIKIOH** (5'11", 252, 6, NL) Jumped from mid-card status to the main events with his historic title win over long-reigning Global Honored Crown champ Kenta Kobashi ... Slow, methodical heavyweight whom fans have been reluctant to accept as a champion ... Has defended the title successfully against Akitoshi Saito ... Big man isn't afraid to use his splash from the top rope to flatten opponents ... Formerly part of the Double Takeshis tag team alongside Takeshi Morishima ... They held the GHC tag title for seven months in 2002 ... Finishing move is called  *muso* —a back suplex converted in mid-air to the Rock bottom.

**85 NEGRO CASAS** (5'7", 180, 26, 144) The most famous wrestling son of Pepe Casas ... Brothers are fellow CMLL stars Felino and Heavy Metal ... His father invented  *la casita* , the pinning combination known in the United States as  *la magistral*  ... CMLL mainstay found himself in

trouble in 2003 after punching out announcer Leonardo Magadan ... His feud with Ultimo Dragon helped popularize the Lucha style in Japan during the heyday of Gran Hamada's Universal promotion ... Appeared with New Japan in the 1990s, and even popped up at the first Super J Cup Tournament ... One of the head trainers at Arena Mexico.

**86 ORLANDO JORDAN** (6'4", 250, 5, 137) Jordan's U.S. title win over John Cena has to rank as one of the biggest upsets in Smackdown history ... After several months competing as a generic—though gifted—fan favorite, came to JBL's aid in August 2004 and was named JBL's chief of staff ... Jordan has

taken beatings from some of Smackdown's biggest stars, but he has kept a tight grip on the U.S. title ... Move to a brawling style has served him well and accommodates his impressive upper body strength ... Former member of the U.S. Forest Service.

**87 SPIKE DUDLEY** (5'7", 155, 10, 51) Little Spike is the only member of the Dudley clan to make this year's "500" ... Beat Rey Mysterio Jr. for the cruiserweight title in July 2004, thanks to interference from Buh Buh Ray and D-Von ... Spike got really nasty during that reign before dropping the belt to Funaki in December 2004 ... Briefly reverted to his loopier ECW persona at One Night Stand ... Was released from WWE just a few weeks later ... He may have to brush off that teaching degree now ... A well-spoken student of the game, Spike gave strong commentary on several recent WWE DVD releases.

**88 SIMON DEAN** (5'10", 215, 11, 152) We have no idea if the Simon System helps burn fat, but it certainly ticks off the people around you ... Dean made a big splash on  *Raw*  with his infomercials, but has done little since stepping into the ring ... Spent more time outside the ring limbering up than wrestling at the 2005 Royal Rumble, which was actually quite funny ... Reverted back to his old Super Nova character at One Night Stand and several times since ... A shot from the Dudleys had Joey Styles crack that it was "more painful than having to play Simon Dean on national TV" ... An extremely innovative wrestler with experience in the Mexican, Japanese, and European styles.

**89 HEIDENREICH** (6'7", 300, 4, 150) One of the most misunderstood people in wrestling ... He just wants to make friends ... Got his start in UPW and received a WWE developmental deal, only to be released in 2002 ... Actually won the NWA Intercontinental tag title with Nathan Jones in Tokyo in 2002 ... After the successful Japanese tour, was re-signed by WWE ... Briefly wrestled for Raw, then debuted on  *Smackdown*  under the tutelage of Paul Heyman ... An accomplished striker with a penchant for poetry ... Early feud with The Undertaker was an awful career move ... Just who was "Little Johnny" anyway?

**90 CHASE STEVENS** (6', 220, 3, 119) One-half of The Naturals with Andy Douglas ... Trained by Tracey Smothers ... Stevens is the high-flyer of the team, using the shooting star press as his finisher ... The Naturals won the NWA tag title on April 26, 2005, in the final wrestling appearance of their manager, Chris Candido, before his death from a blood clot ... Their Natural disaster finisher is both flashy and effective ... Injured James Storm's shoulder in 2004 ... Despite the success of the team, both Stevens and Douglas are having trouble distinguishing themselves in the eyes of many fans.



**91 MATT CAPPOTELLI** (6', 218, 2, 170) The *Tough Enough III* winner has thrived in OVW, where he and partner Johnny Jeter are two of the company's most popular attractions ... Still best remembered for being the victim of Hardcore Holly's bully tactics on *TE* ... Suffered a concussion in an April 2004 bout against Holly ... The Thrillseekers defended the OVW Southern tag title against M-N-M, The Blond Bombers, and The Heartthrobs ... Went by the nickname "The Flava" during his *TE* stint ... He's hoping he'll be the one to break the *Tough Enough* curse.

**92 ROSEY** (6'5", 360, 11, 98) Everyone laughed when Rosey left Three Minute Warning and started wearing oversized Underoos as The Hurricane's Super Hero In Training ... Now Rosey's a tag team champion and Stacy Keibler is his own super heroine ... Who's laughing now? ... Has held several regional tag titles ... A true tag team specialist with immense physical strength ... The son of Wild Samoan Sika ... Was previously known as Kimo of The Island Boyz ... His large frame belies surprising foot speed and agility ... One of the genuinely nice guys in wrestling.

**93 MAVEN** (6'2", 210, 4, 142) The very first *Tough Enough* winner had formed a credible team with Simon Dean before his release in July ... Received a surprisingly high number of fan votes for the Taboo Tuesday Intercontinental title shot ... Adopted a more aggressive persona following the 2004 Survivor Series ... Quick loss to Shelton Benjamin at New Year's Revolution badly damaged his credibility ... Maven has a superior cardiovascular training regimen and boasts one of the most accurate dropkicks in the business.

**94 SYLVAN GRENIER** (6'2", 240, 3, 60) Grenier was thrilled to be a part of the big trade that sent him from Raw to Smackdown, as he was at his wits' end with partner Robert Conway ... A founding member of La Resistance with Rene Dupree, but was replaced by Conway due to injury ... A graduate of Dory Funk Jr.'s Funkin' Conservatory ... A former Raw tag champ ... His upper body strength is vastly underrated ... First appeared in WWE as Vince McMahon's handpicked sneaky French referee ... How he fares with Smackdown over the next few months will dramatically affect his career prospects.

**95 COLT CABANA** (6'1", 235, 6, 155) "Classic" Colt is still trying to make Barry Manilow cool to wrestling fans ... Part of The Second City Saints with C.M. Punk and Ace Steel ... Has added a British influence to his wrestling style,

which could explain his feud with Nigel McGuinness ... Has lost 13 pounds in the past year ... Was honored to have Bobby Heenan as his manager twice in the past year ... Has spent a lot of time in Europe, wrestling in England, Germany, Scotland, and Ireland ... Also competed in IWA Puerto Rico ... Claims he once ate an entire watermelon after a match, which has to be good for something.

**96 ANDY DOUGLAS** (6'1", 220, 3, 126) One-half of The Naturals along with Chase Stevens ... Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, native was previously managed by April Pennington ... The Naturals have the distinction of winning the NWA tag title on April 26, 2005, in the final wrestling appearance of their manager, Chris Candido, before his tragic death ... Douglas and Stevens silenced critics with successful title defenses against America's Most Wanted and Team Canada at Hard Justice and Slammiversary, respectively ... Douglas is widely considered to be the superior mat wrestler of the team.

**97 JOHNNY JETER** (6', 218, 3, 70) The San Diego native has spent most of the past year teaming

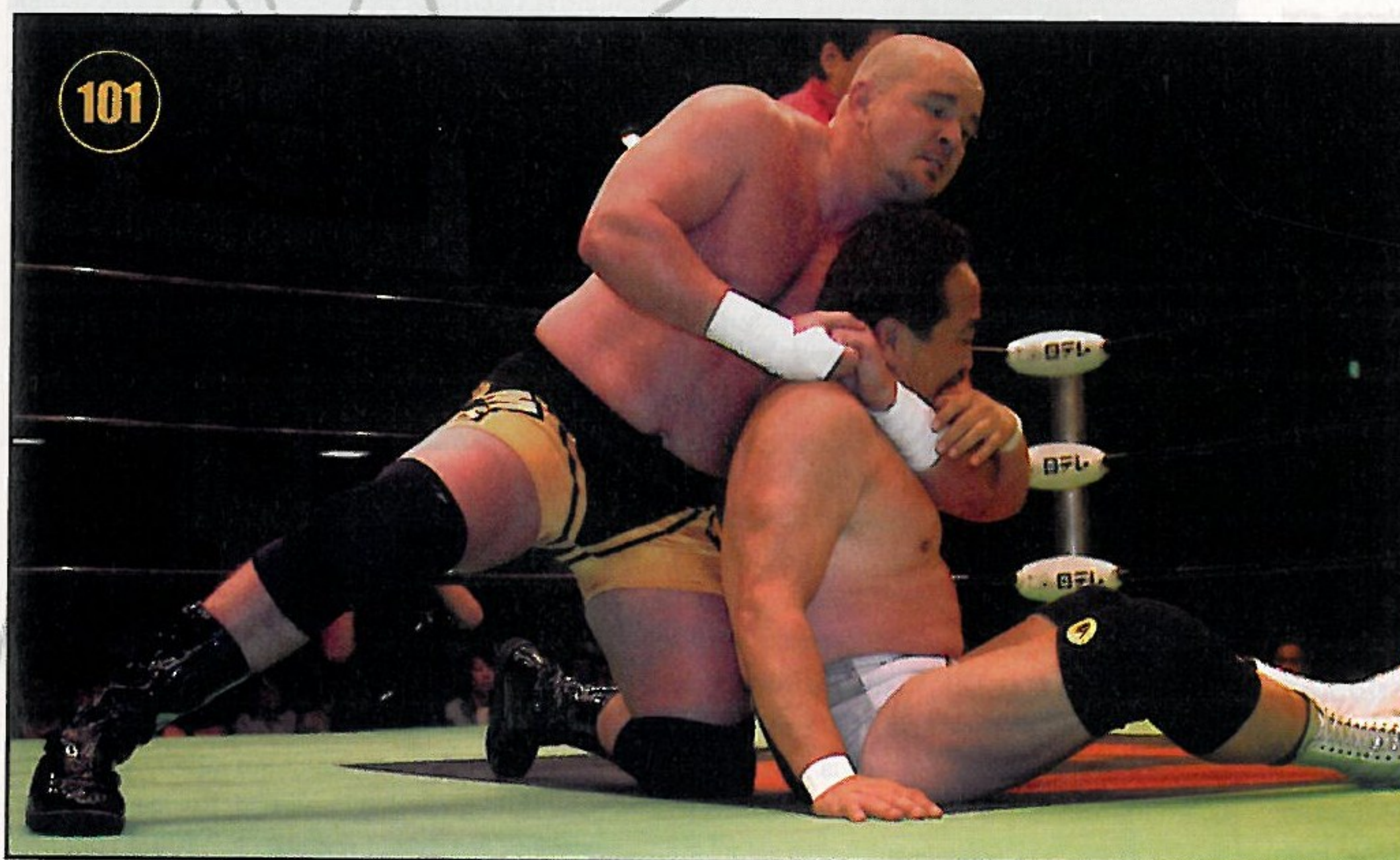
with Matt Cappotelli as The Thrillseekers in OVW ... The Thrillseekers defended the OVW Southern tag title against M-N-M, The Blond Bombers, and The Heartthrobs ... Style is reminiscent of Rick Morton of The Rock 'n' Roll Express ... Trained by Nick "Eugene" Dinsmore in OVW ... Pet moves include the Asai moonsault and his finisher, the top-rope corkscrew kick ... Recently blinded in one eye, courtesy of Jillian Hall ... Set his high school's varsity and junior varsity pole vaulting records.

**98 B.G. JAMES** (6'2", 261, 12, 147) James has been having the time of his life teaming with his good friends Konnan and Ron Killings as 3 Live Kru ... Former member of DeGeneration X has been conflicted in his feelings about former partner The Outlaw, formerly known as Billy Gunn ... The long-awaited New Age Outlaws reunion has yet to take place ... Trained by Tommy Rich as well as his brothers Scott and Steve Armstrong ... Still uses the pumphandle slam as a finisher ... Former WWE Intercontinental and five-time tag champion ... Veteran of the Gulf War ... His success has made everyone forget about that supposed Armstrong curse.

**99 KEIJI MUTO** (6'1", 244, 22, 33) The former Great Muta of New Japan Pro Wrestling has spent the last few years as president of All-Japan Pro Wrestling ... Muto's wrestling continues to defy his age ... A two-time former All-Japan Triple Crown champ, as well as a three-time IWGP heavyweight champion ... Years of abuse have caused his knees to weaken, and Muto occasionally hobbles about the ring ... Has all but retired his famous moonsault press ... American fans may remember his visits to WCW and ROH ... Finisher is the shining wizard, a wicked knee strike to the temple or face.

**100 JAMES GIBSON** (5'8", 190, 11, 75) The former WWE cruiserweight champion (as Jamie Noble) was released from the company and became one of the most sought-after talents on the indy scene ... Emerged as a top contender to the heavyweight and pure titles in Ring of Honor ... Has made several tours of Japan since being released from WWE ... It was his effort to follow in the footsteps of his role models, Dean Malenko and Chris Benoit ... Competed in WCW as a member of The Jung Dragons as the masked Jamie-san ... The original rampaging redneck.

**101 DONOVAN MORGAN** (6', 220, 7, 73) This West Coast veteran plies his trade in Japan's Pro Wrestling NOAH, PW Iron, and Impact Zone Wrestling ... Often teams with Mike Modest, with whom he's held several tag team titles both here and in Japan ... He and Modest also co-run Pro Wrestling Iron ... A powerful, submission-style wrestler in the vein of a scaled-down Brock Lesnar ... Received the coveted "Future Superstar" award from the Cauliflower Alley Club ... A former ECWA Super 8 champion ... A power-based wrestler who incorporates *puroresu* into his multifaceted style ... Former ROH tag champ and a member of The Prophecy.



**102 MR. NIEBLA** (5'9", 209, 15, 29) Former CMLL heavyweight champ has been a popular *technico* practically his entire career ... Also a former CMLL trios and tag team champion ... Billed as "the man with the elastic body," his name literally translates to "Mr. Fog" ... Won the mask of former partner Shocker back in 1999, but oddly, it was Shocker's career that skyrocketed after the match ... Stocky masked man is a remarkable high-flyer and mat virtuoso ... His pet hold is *la nieblina*, a complicated hold that ties up an opponent's arms and legs in a tight little ball.

**103 ALEX SHELLEY** (5'10", 199, 3, 276) The former Generation Next star in ROH has put his "Baby Bear" days behind him ... Trained by Scott D'Amore and Joe E. Legend ... Shelley was replaced by Austin Aries as the leader of Generation Next, igniting a violent feud between Shelley and his former partners ... Also competes in TNA, Zero-One, Border City, and Japan ... Calls his style of wrestling "British lucharesu" to reflect his international influences ... Beat Andrew Ryker in the first match of the 2005 Super 8 tourney, but lost to eventual winner Petey Williams ... Finishers include the Shellshock, 2K1 Bomb, and Border City stretch.

**104 TYSON TOMKO** (6'6", 292, 3, 76) The big

man with the wild tattoos and questionable facial hair put his singles career on hold in favor of being Christian's so-called "Problem Solver" ... Previously a member of The Disciples of Synn in OVW, teaming with Seven (a.k.a. Mordecai) ... In OVW, Tomko showed good potential as a classic powerhouse, but he has struggled in WWE ... Has a lethal tombstone finisher, but has yet to use it extensively in WWE ... Also worked as hired muscle for Trish Stratus ... With Christian being drafted by Smackdown, his future is uncertain.

**105 BILLY KIDMAN** (5'10", 195, 10, 92) The seven-time WCW/WWE cruiserweight champion had

**108 SHO FUNAKI** (5'7", 180, 15, 138) Smackdown's "numbah-one announcer" is living proof that hard work and perseverance can pay off ... After years of struggling in *Heat* and *Velocity* matches, Funaki won a cruiserweight battle royal to earn the number-one contender spot ... At Armageddon 2004, Funaki stunned Spike Dudley to win the title ... The highlight of his reign—if not his career—came on February 10, 2005, when he beat Chavo Guerrero Jr. in Japan to retain the title ... Competed in the prestigious Super J Cup Tournament in 1995 ... Has held the WWE hardcore, TWA heavyweight, and UWA middleweight titles.

**109 ELIJAH BURKE** (6'1", 230, 1, NL) This charismatic rookie has impressed a lot of fans—and tal-

ent scouts—in OVW ... A former sheriff's deputy with the Jacksonville Police Department ... Decided to leave that career behind to follow his dream of becoming a pro wrestler ... Idolized Dusty Rhodes as a boy, and was heavily influenced by Rhodes' interview style ... Beat Carlito Caribbean Cool at OVW's Fall Brawl 2004 ... Beat Muhammad Hassan at the 2004 Crusade Rumble ... Held the OVW heavyweight championship for four months in early-2005 ... Quick on his feet with good fundamentals and natural athleticism, Burke is considered a top prospect for WWE.

**106 KONNAN** (5'10", 260, 17, 164) K-Dogg is still getting rowdy, rowdy and bawdy, bawdy in TNA ... One of the most accomplished—and controversial—wrestlers ever to compete in Mexico ... Currently part of 3 Live Kru with B.G. James and Ron Killings ... The arrival of The Outlaw (Billy Gunn) on the scene has caused dissension in the ranks ... A former WCW U.S. champion ... Konnan has loads of experience and is equally adept at utilizing a power game as he is exchanging technical holds ... Finisher is the Tequila sunrise.

**107 JUN AKIYAMA** (6', 231, 13, 125) The original star of Mitsuharu Misawa's Pro Wrestling NOAH group has faded from the spotlight recently ... Captured the Global Honored Crown shortly after the company opened, but lost it to Yoshinari Ogawa in 2002 ... Partnered with Kenta Kobashi

**110 MICHAEL MODEST** (5'10", 220, 15, 79) This versatile mat wrestler has competed all over the world ... A regular in Japan for Pro Wrestling NOAH ... Continues to operate Pro Wrestling Iron with partner Donovan Morgan ... He and Morgan are as formidable in the ring as a team as they are in the business world ... Held the PWI tag title ... Won the New Breed Wrestling Association's Mike Lockwood Memorial Tournament on March 18 ... Defeated James Gibson in the finals ... A suplex master, Modest always seems to find exciting new ways to drop guys from over his head ... Calls his finisher the reality check.



**111 MR. AGUILA** (5'8", 200, 11, 86) Former WWF star has been back with AAA for some time ... Also competed as Essa Rios and Papi Chulo in years past ... A former WWE light heavyweight and UWA light heavyweight champion ... Newly formed tag team with Juventud Guerrera was broken up when Juvi left for WWE ... Lost his mask to Ultimo Guerrero back in 1998 ... Known for his corkscrew variation of moves like the tope con hilo and the tope suicida ... Joined Hector Garza, Abismo Negro, and Juventud Guerrera as Team Mexico to challenge for the X Cup in TNA last year.

**112 GENICHIRO TENRYU** (6'1", 275, 29, 90) The ageless *puroresu* star is an active freelance agent in Japan, wrestling for a variety of promotions ... Recently appeared in the fledgling Dragon Gate company, in which he is teaming with Tokyo Magnum ... One of the few men alive to have held both the All-Japan Triple Crown and the IWGP heavyweight title ... Always clad in black and yellow ... One of the few Japanese wrestlers to ever appear at both a Royal Rumble (1993) and a WrestleMania (VII) ... Known for his hard chops and kicks ... Finisher is a jackhammer-like move that fans have dubbed the "54-year-old."

**113 STEVE CORINO** (6'1", 229, 10, 69) The "King Of Old School" has another jewel in his crown: the AWA heavyweight title ... He can add that to an already-impressive list of 29 singles titles and seven tag team titles ... Probably the only man who will ever be able to boast holding the ECW, NWA, and AWA titles ... Quit Ring of Honor this year, but still maintains a busy wrestling schedule, frequently competing in Japan and Europe ... Competes mainly in Zero-One Max in Japan ... Is such a throwback with his wrestling style that you'd swear his daddy was Dusty Rhodes or Dick Murdoch.

**114 TANK TOLAND** (5'9", 225, 5, 141) Tank is a former OVW heavyweight champion and usually teams with "cousin" Chad as The Blond Bombers ... Replaced Nova as part of Adrenaline, teaming with Chris Cage before his cousin showed up in OVW ... Together, Cage and Tank held the OVW Southern tag title on two occasions, but they're far from being on speaking terms these days ... His finisher is the terret, a spinning Polish hammer ... Tore his biceps and blamed the injury on a phantom backstage attack by Cage ... One of the best promo men in OVW.

**115 KID KASH** (5'10", 188, 15, 65) "The Notorious K.I.D." seems to be following in the footsteps of Brian Pillman, both with his unpredictable behavior and incredible in-ring moves ... Walked out of TNA for an opportunity to compete on the One Night



Stand event ... Made an awesome suicide dive during a run-in in the main event and was called "Mr. Total Nonstop Attitude" by Joey Styles ... Broke into the business as David Jericho, teaming with Rick Morton ... A former TNA X division, NWA tag, and ECW TV champion ... Kash is extensively skilled in martial arts and shootfighting and is willing to stand up to any man.

**116 CHRIS MASTERS** (6'5", 270, 3, 185) "The Masterpiece" keeps upping the reward, but no one seems to be able to break his Masterlock full-nelson ... Masters is a former Mr. California and runner-up in the Mr. Olympia competition ... Formed The Troubleshooters with Brent Albright in OVW ... At just 22 years old, Masters has lots of potential ... Showed just how dangerous he can be by breaking Steven Richards' orbital bone with a devastating Polish hammer strike to the face ... While his prematch pose-downs anger many wrestlers (and fans), no one has been able to hand him his comeuppance.

**117 RENE DUPREE** (6'3", 250, 7, 108) Chris Masters may call himself "The Masterpiece," but this Montreal native could give him a run for that title ... The son of Emil Dupree ... Has been training for a career in the ring and in weightlifting since the age of 11 ... The youngest person ever to sign a WWE developmental contract (at 18) ... A founding member of La Resistance ... Drafted to Smackdown in 2004 and then back to *Raw* in 2005 ... Riles the fans with his poodle, Fifi, and his odd celebratory dance ... Many insiders feel Dupree has superstar potential, like fellow second- (or third-) generation stars The Rock and Randy Orton ... Favors his *bon-soir* driver and fisherman's suplex.

**118 MARK JINDRAK** (6'5", 253, 6, 112) "The Reflection Of Perfection" was yet another victim of the WWE layoffs of July 2005 ... Seemed to have some good momentum after splitting with Luther Reigns and introducing Reigns to his hands of stone punch ... Worked as an enforcer for Kurt Angle ... A former WCW tag team champion ... His inability to get a real push is truly puzzling, as Jindrak has the true superstar look and solid in-ring skills ... His lack of personality could have been his downfall ... Could become a major player on the indy scene.

**119 SHARK BOY** (5'10", 180, 8, 151) Don't mention Lava Girl to this Shark Boy ... Filed suit against the makers of the film *Shark Boy And Lava Girl* for copyright infringement ... Still one of the most popular wrestlers in TNA and all over the indy circuit ... Hails from "20,000 leagues under the sea," but his home waters are in Ohio ... Formed a funny team with D-Ray 3000 ... His Dead Sea drop somersault blockbuster is an enormously effective finisher, but requires a lot of setup time, making it difficult to land on veteran opponents ... Has wrestled several WWE dark matches.

**120 AARON STEVENS** (6'4", 237, 7, 168) "The Idol" broke away from Nova's Jersey Crew and struck out as a singles competitor over the past year ... Now accompanied to the ring by Beth Phoenix and has adopted a smug, elitist attitude ... Former Chaotic Wrestling heavyweight and tag team champion ... Has made several WWE appearances, both on *Heat* and in dark matches, since signing a developmental contract ... Feuded with former partner Danny Inferno in some wild bouts in OVW ... Continues to disturb fans with his gluteus flexes from the ring apron.

**121 SONJAY DUTT** (5'8", 185, 4, 128) "The Playa From The Himalayas" has been excelling in NWA Cyberspace and CZW ... Best known for his appearances in TNA, where he has been a player in the X division and a member of Team NWA ... Trained by Larry Sharpe ... Often sets up his Hindusault (a flying corkscrew 450 splash) with his Bombay buster suplex into a knee buster ... Won the 2004 CZW Best of the Best Tournament ... A former IWA Mid-South light heavyweight champ ... Had the unfortunate honor of being the first TNA victim of Samoa Joe at Slammiversary.

**122 TOKYO MAGNUM** (5'11", 201, 8, 217) Rose to fame in Toryumon, then led the majority of the roster in a mass exodus and started up Dragon Gate about a year ago ... The group instantly became an independent powerhouse on the *puroresu* scene ... Recently began a strange partnership with Genichiro Tenryu ... Charismatic grappler delights female fans with his dancing ... Started his career on the undercard of IWRG and WCW events ... Won the El Numero Uno Tournament in 2002 ... Skillful in the air, he calls his graceful shooting star press the AV press ... Signature move is called the Viagra driver.

**123 THE OUTLAW** (6'4", 254, 12, 62) The man formerly known as Billy Gunn showed up in TNA with a major league chip on his shoulder ... Gunn is a true tag team specialist, having won 10 WWE tag titles with three different partners (Bart Gunn, Road Dogg, and Chuck Palumbo) ... Also a former Intercontinental champion ... Still uses his famouser as his main finisher ... Debuted in TNA at Against All Odds ... Defeated Kevin Nash in a first-blood match at Destination X.

**124 NIGEL MCGUINNESS** (6'1", 220, 5, 219) British mat wrestler has been making his mark in ROH ... A former Heartland Wrestling Association heavyweight and tag team champion ... Teams with



Chad Collyer in ROH ... Principal finisher is the guv'nor's crumpey, a hammerlock pedigree ... Also known for his top turnbuckle headstand and Rick Steamboat-style deep armdrags ... Intensely feuding with Colt Cabana ... Frequently brings his trusty iron—yes, an iron—to the ring to use as a weapon ... Has the size and showmanship to be a breakout star ... Imagine a younger, more athletic William Regal.

**125 KHOSROW DAIVARI** (5'10", 203, 5, 238) The man formerly known as *Shawn* Daivari is the perfect example of a wrestler who used the ECWA Super 8 Tournament as a steppingstone to WWE ... A last-minute replacement for the injured Tyson Dux in the 2004 tourney, Daivari lost a close match to Austin Aries in the quarterfinals ... Signed with WWE shortly thereafter and was paired with Muhammad Hassan ... Hassan and Daivari (along with bodyguard Osama) incited OVW fans to near-riot levels ... Irritates fans by translating everything Hassan says into Farsi.

**126 JUVENTUD GUERRERA** (5'5", 165, 13, 52) We'd been hearing rumors of Juvi's "im-pending arrival" in WWE for so long that we had almost given up on him ... Finally showed up on *Smackdown* as part of The Mexicools in June 2005 ... Gotta dig his "Juan Deere" lawn tractor ... The WCW alumnus has stayed busy over the past year, competing throughout Mexico and in a handful of U.S. independent promotions ... Was part of Team Mexico in TNA ... Helped popularize cruiserweight wrestling in the late-1990s in WCW ... Almost as well known for his controversial behavior at times as he is for his high-flying attacks.

**127 CHAD TOLAND** (5'9", 205, 4, 260) Turns out this Malibu Beach native is a cousin of Tank Toland ... The Tolands—a.k.a. The Blond Bombers—have been infuriating the OVW faithful, but they have also been extremely entertaining ... Chad trained at the Chaotic Training Center and the Inoki

Dojo and made his debut as "Lifesaver" Billy Kryptonite ... A natural showman and performer ... Briefly held the OVW heavyweight title after scoring an upset over Chris Cage in December 2004 ... Snagged a WWE developmental contract in 2004 and has made several WWE appearances in dark matches and on *Sunday Night Heat*.

**128 NUNZIO** (5'9", 209, 14, 111) Reunited with fellow Full-Blooded Italians J.T. Smith, Tracey Smothers, Tony Mamaluke, and Big Guido at One Night Stand ... "The Sicilian Shooter" is extremely skilled in mat wrestling and submission-style grappling ... Trained by Billy Robinson, Lou Thesz, and Dan Hodge ... Got his first big break in ECW in 1995 as Little Guido ... Has gone from comedy matches to the thick of cruiserweight contention ... Joined WWE in December 2002 as Jamie Noble's cousin ... Other than Rey Mysterio Jr., Nunzio is probably the most respected cruiserweight in WWE.

**129 VISCERA** (6'10", 496, 14, NL) Somebody call Mark Henry and let him know Big Vis has stolen his "Sexual Chocolate" gimmick ... The gargantuan brawler got a fresh start when Trish Stratus recruited him as a pawn in her war with Kane and Lita ... Now Viscera is Raw's most eligible bachelor, as Lilian Garcia can attest ... A former King of the Ring and WWF tag champion as Mabel ... Also held the WWE hardcore title and heavyweight titles in Memphis and in Puerto Rico ... While his big splash is feared, his crossfaces from a rear mount position are even more feared.

**130 ATLANTIS** (5'8", 199, 22, 97) Master of the spinning torture rack called *la atlantida* ... Long-time *technico* is a favorite of children in Mexico ... Acapulco native remains one of CMLL's most consistent performers ... Famous white and blue mask is a big seller at arenas in Mexico ... Had arguably his greatest match in 2000, when he defeated Villano III for his mask ... Briefly held the Michinoku Pro tohoku junior title last year ... Mainly sticks to trios matches these days, and the occasional tag team bout with semi-regular partner Blue Panther ... One of the innovators of the high-flying style in Mexico.



## 131 KOJI KANEMOTO (5'10", 200, 15, 139)

The former Tiger Mask III has had his hands full in the past year dealing with his successor, Tiger Mask IV ... Consistent performances at the annual Best of the Super Junior over the last eight years have made him synonymous with the tournament ... He won it in both 1998 and 2002 ... Came back from a few nagging injuries, but is none the worse for wear ... Likes to use flying moves like the moonsault press and the twisting senton from the middle rope ... Sometimes reprises his Tiger Mask character for special events, and regularly uses the Tiger suplex as his finisher.

## 132 ANTONIO THOMAS (6'1", 235, 4, 385)

"The Promise" is living it up as one-half of The Heartthrobs on *Raw* ... Trained by Steve Bradley ... Cut his teeth in New England, where he first started teaming with Romeo Roselli ... The two reunited in OVW in November 2004 ... Initially heels, their outrageous antics soon made them cult favorites ... Feuded with M-N-M and The Thrillseekers in OVW ... The Heartthrobs made their *Raw* debut in a non-title bout against William Regal and Tajiri and have received several title

out of action in April 2005 with a collapsed lung ... Suzuki had been competing in OVW at the time of his release ... Was a major rugby star in Great Britain before joining New Japan ... Won the 2000 Young Lions Cup Tournament ... Considered a giant by Japanese standards ... Might consider a return to TNA, in which he wrestled Perry Saturn to a draw in July 2003 ... Held the Smackdown tag title with Rene Dupree.

## 134 STEVEN RICHARDS (6'2", 227, 13, 106)

The man formerly known as "Dancin'" Stevie should really think about signing a manager ... He could use someone to stop him from signing matches against big, hard-hitting opponents ... Was badly beaten by Tyson Tomko, then suffered facial injuries from a devastating Polish hammer from Chris Masters ... It may be hard to believe today, but Richards came close to winning the ECW World title on several occasions ... Had he not injured his back, his whole career could have been different ... Stevie-kick is a solid finisher ... Got the band back together with a BWO reunion at One Night Stand and on subsequent *Smackdowns*.

## 135 VAL VENIS (6'2", 250, 10, 99)

You would think a man so flamboyant wouldn't stand for such a low-profile spot in WWE ... Most memorable moment

of the past year was probably Val failing to win the Masterlock Challenge ... A former Intercontinental champ who cut his teeth in Mexico ... As Chief Morley, he was Eric Bischoff's chief of staff on *Raw* ... Maybe he should see if JBL could use a new chief of staff ... Finisher is the money shot, a five-star frog splash off the top rope ... He really should introduce himself to some of the new *Raw* divas and bring back his old "Hello, ladies" persona.

## 136 ROMEO ROSELLI (6'1", 220, 3, NL)

The man with the never-ending abs first gained fame in OVW ... First teamed with Antonio Thomas in the Eastern Wrestling Alliance, where they won the tag title ... The Heartthrobs reunited in OVW as heels, but their over-the-top, gender-bending antics turned them into fan favorites ... Previously managed by Mo Green and

feuded extensively with M-N-M ... Made a surprise appearance on *Raw*, challenging Tajiri and William Regal for the tag belts in their first televised match ... Roselli favors the blockbuster as his finisher of choice ... Is also an ECWA alumnus.

## 137 SCOTTY TOO HOTTY (5'9", 209, 17, NL)

The purveyor of the worm is back after a testicular cancer scare ... Scotty has also missed stretches of time due to neck and ankle injuries that have forced him to adopt a more conservative style ... A former tag champion (with Brian "Grandmaster Sexay" Christopher and Rikishi) and light heavyweight champion in WWE ... His 2000 feud with Dean Malenko showed that he has impressive technical skills when he isn't concentrating solely on goofing off ... A competent overall wrestler with almost two decades of pro experience ... Has the potential to be a surprise cruiserweight champion, like Funaki and Spike Dudley.

## 138 DOUG WILLIAMS (6'1", 233, 9, 171)

British technician is a former ROH pure champion ... A former British judo champion ... Has helped popularize the European style of wrestling across the U.S. indy scene, primarily through his work in ROH ... Calls his finisher the chaos theory ... Won the Pro Wrestling NOAH GHC tag team title with Scorpio ... Known as "The Anarchist" ... Beat American Dragon to become the first International Catch Wrestling Alliance heavyweight champion ... Uses the impeccable balance from his judo days to his advantage, giving him an edge on the mat.

## 139 SHANNON MOORE (5'8", 175, 10, 129)

The former would-be boy bander now bears a striking resemblance to a young (and decidedly more toned) Johnny Rotten of The Sex Pistols ... Cut his teeth in NWA Worldwide as part of The Bad Street Boys with Shane (Hurricane) Helms, Joey (Mercury) Matthews, and Christian York ... From there it was on to WCW as part of Three Count ... Beat Jamie Noble and Chad Collyer to begin his two HWA cruiserweight title runs in 2002 ... Crowning moment in WWE to date was his run as Matt Hardy's top "Mattitude Follower" ... An extremely talented cruiserweight who never seems to fare well against the heavyweights.

## 140 JIMMY RAVE (5'11", 186, 5, 199)

This former Wildside star is now making his home in ROH ... The main henchman in Prince Nana's Embassy stable ... Since returning to ROH, he's feuded with C.M. Punk and now A.J. Styles—a former Wildside competitor ... Adopted the Styles clash as his pet finisher—much to A.J. Styles' dismay ... Has even used the Styles clash on A.J. ... Other holds featured in his arsenal are the Fujiwara armbar and the shining wizard ... List of titles held includes Wildside junior heavyweight, CZW ironman, and NWA junior heavyweight ... Should be aiming for a ROH pure title reign in the coming year.

**141 AKIO** (5'9", 185, 6, 140) The former Jimmy Yang had been virtually invisible for the Smackdown brand in recent months, then was released ... Signed a three-year deal with WWE in 2003 and debuted as one of Tajiri's hired thugs, but that storyline evaporated ... Was a member of The Jung Dragons in WCW and The Flying Elvives in TNA ... Teamed with Satoshi Kojima to beat Keiji Muto and George Hines in April 2003 ... Trained at the WCW Power Plant ... Finisher is the Yang time ... Soft-spoken demeanor got him lost in the shuffle ... Uses a fast-paced martial arts style peppered with aerial attacks.

## 142 ORIENTAL (5'9", 202, 13, NL)

One of the famous wrestling Morenos ... His sisters are also popular Luchadores ... Recently toured Japan with Mitsuharu Misawa's Pro Wrestling NOAH after departing from Super Delfin's Osaka Pro ... A regular in Mexico with AAA, as well as a frequent independent star for groups like IWRG ... Made a few appearances in the United States in the past year for the Pennsylvania-based CHIKARA ... His rivalry with Abismo Negro spans many years ... A master of the flying headscissors, he can execute the move from all sorts of odd angles in and out of the ring ... A former UWA welterweight champion ... Likes to use the Tiger suplex.

## 143 D-LO BROWN (6'3", 281, 11, 61)

Europe and Japan are now definitely "down with the Brown" ... Maybe they still wish he was the WWE "Euro-Continental champion" ... After a stint in TNA, he returned to wrestling mainly independents ... Won the Border City Wrestling heavyweight title in July 2004 and held the belt until A-1 unseated him five months later ... Made up for it by winning the Irish Whip Wrestling title from Seamus O'Shaunessy on May 29 ... Uses the frog splash as his finisher ... Hard to believe it's been 10 years since he was just the bodyguard of The Gangstas.

## 144 PSICOSIS (5'10", 198, 14, 71)

The two-time former WCW cruiserweight champion has finally made it to the promised land of WWE as part of the Mexicools

... Trained by Rey Misterio Sr. ... First came to prominence in the U.S. with his ECW series against Rey Misterio Jr. ... That series landed him a spot in WCW, where he became one of that company's featured cruiserweights ... Competed in World Wrestling All-Stars, XPW, and in Mexico after WCW folded ... Upset by John Walters in the first round of the 2004 Super 8 tournament ... Favors a legdrop from the top rope as his main finisher, but any time he can lift his body into the air, Psicosis is extremely dangerous ... Previously known as Nicho El Millonario due to a dispute over the rights to the Psicosis name.

## 145 TREVOR RHODES (6'4", 240, 8, NL)

This Harley Race trainee spent six months doing his post-grad work at the NOAH Dojo in Japan ... He has completed seven tours with NOAH and has wrestled some of the top stars of the promotion, including Kenta Kobashi, Mitsuharu Misawa, and Jun Akiyama ... Defeated Rick Steiner to win the World League Wrestling title ... Featured in a *New York Times* article about the Harley Race Academy and WLW ... Recently signed his WWE developmental contract ... Is now paired with Garrison Cade as TNT in WWE dark matches ... Hopefully, this cowboy-centric team will make it to the main roster.

## 146 ROCKY ROMERO (5'7", 175, 6, 189)

This tag team specialist is one-half of The Havana Pit Bulls, alongside Ricky Reyes ... Impressed New Japan officials enough to get him tapped to be Black Tiger IV ... Has wrestled mainly in California and

Japan, but is also a frequent ROH competitor ... Held the ROH tag title with Reyes, as well as the UPW, MPW, IWC, and EWF tag titles ... His strong *puroresu* and Lucha Libre hybrid style can be attributed to his trainers, Antonio Inoki and Negro Casas ... Competed in the 2004 Super 8 Tournament.

## 147 ADAM PEARCE (6'2", 233, 9, NL)

"Scrap Iron" returns to the list after a four-year absence ... His last ranking was 200 in 2001 ... This Chicago native packed his bags for sunny California, where he frequently wrestles for Pro Wrestling Guerrilla, UPW, Pro Wrestling WAR, and Southern California Championship Wrestling ... Held several titles, including the UPW heavyweight, IWA Mid-South light heavyweight, Steel Domain Wrestling Northern States TV, and Mid American Wrestling heavyweight ... Competed in Mexico's Promociones XLUM, where he feuded with Venum Black, Extreme Tiger, Nicho el Millonario (Psicosis), and Rey Misterio Sr. ... Finishers include the rack bomb 2, a flying fist-drop, and a jumping piledriver.

## 148 SEVEN (6'5", 285, 5, 88)

The man previously known as Mordecai was recently released by WWE ... Collected wins over Hardcore Holly and Scotty Too Hotty and seemed on his way to a feud with The Undertaker when WWE Creative scratched the gimmick and sent him back to OVW ... Actually an extremely entertaining wrestler who always involves the crowd ... Teamed with Tyson Tomko as The Disciples of Synn ... Finisher was the crucifix, a version of the Razor's edge ... The big redhead was in the midst of a feud with Blaster Lashley when he was released.

## 149 C.W. ANDERSON (6'1", 237, 10, 74)

This old school throwback has all of the attributes of a good Anderson: tenacity, toughness, and the ability to win any bar fight ... Only thing missing is actual Ole, Gene, Lars, or Arn Anderson blood in his veins ... Competed this year at the Hardcore Homecoming show and attended the ECW One Night Stand PPV ... When not gallivanting around the world, he wrestles for independents throughout the Southeast ... Still uses the classic Anderson finisher: a spinebuster ... Grossly underrated for his mat-based maneuvers and submission knowledge.

## 150 JAMAL (6'5", 356, 6, 179)

Has spent much of his time in AJPW wrestling against former WWE competitors Chuck Palumbo and Brute Bernard (a.k.a. A-Train) ... He and Talyo Kea have formed one of the more formidable foreigner teams in All-Japan ... Also competes in Italy and WXW in the U.S. ... One of the smaller Samoans, but is arguably the most agile of the bunch ... Formerly a member of Three Minute Warning in WWE and a heavyweight contender for the NWA title in TNA.



shots, but have yet to take the gold ... Likes to use a double-STO along with Roselli to beat opponents.

## 133 KENZO SUZUKI (6'3", 250, 5, 110)

The wannabe American from Japan was released from WWE as the "500" was being compiled ... Was put





**151 DANNY INFERNO** (6'4", 230, 13, 242) OVW competitor has been around the block ... Won dozens of state and regional championships as an amateur wrestler in high school and placed second in the New Jersey state finals ... Was inducted into the ECWA Hall of Fame in 1996 ... Signed a WWE developmental deal in February 2005 ... Managed by Trudi DeNucci ... Feuding with Aaron "Idol" Stevens and Stevens' manager, Beth Phoenix ... Beat Gangrel in a singles match in June 2005 ... Once claimed he was named "Mr. Jersey Shore 2000," though no one can confirm it ... Was part of Nova's Jersey Crew in 2004.

**152 SUPER DELFIN** (5'9", 205, 16, 157) President and most recognizable star of Japanese independent Osaka Pro, the company he founded after leaving Michinoku Pro ... Cut his teeth in the Mexican independents, then wrestled for Gran Hamada's Universal in the early-1990s ... Masked man was once thought of as a comedy act, but got serious after suffering a harrowing back injury at the hands of Kaientai DX in 1997 ... Not to be confused with Super Dolphin, another Osaka Pro wrestler ... Invented the Osaka cutter variation of the stunner ... Was once known as Monkey Magic Wakita ... Favorite finishing combo is the swinging DDT followed by his Delfin clutch.

**153 GARRISON CADE** (6'5", 262, 6, 85) One of the first graduates of the Shawn Michaels Wrestling Academy, Cade is currently competing in OVW (as Lance Cade) after suffering a knee injury ... Also testing a new tag team with Trevor Rhodes, called TNT, in dark matches before televised WWE shows ... Uses a leg-drop from the top rope as his finisher, but his primary set-ups, the flying elbow and the superkick, are lifted right out of HBK's playbook ... A former HWA heavyweight champion and two-time tag champion ... Feuding with Brent Albright in OVW ... Started wrestling at age 19, so he's still young.

**154 ABISMO NEGRO** (5'9", 191, 15, 91) Masked *rudo* of AAA always has his blowtorch handy to scorch opponents and incite trouble ... Years-long rivalry with Oriental spans numerous promotions in both Mexico and Japan ... Recently returned from a tour with Pro Wrestling NOAH, where he and Oriental locked horns once again ... Got a bit of American exposure last year as part of Team Mexico in TNA ... Once known as Winners, he lost his mask to Super Calo in 1995 ... Part of the LLL contingent that makes life miserable for the *technicos* of AAA ... Nickname is "el rey del martinete," which means "king of the piledriver."

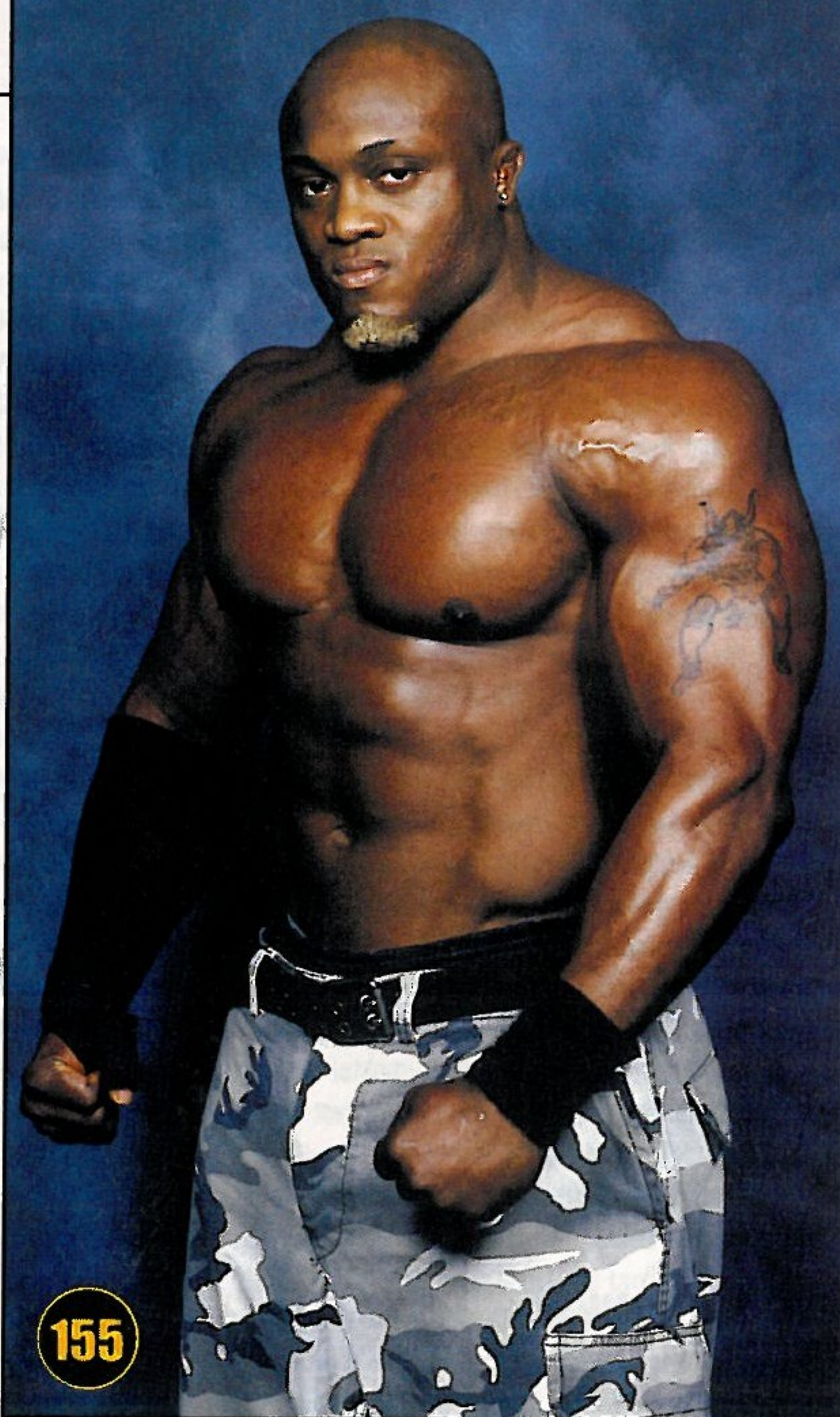
**155 BLASTER LASHLEY** (6'3", 250, 6, NL) Bobby "Blaster" Lashley is getting some serious attention down in Ohio Valley Wrestling, where he is currently managed by Kenny Bolin ... Attended Missouri Valley

College and won three national wrestling championships from 1996 to 1998 ... Was the NAIA national wrestling champion in 1997 and 1998 and also wrestled in the U.S. Army ... Like fellow amateur standout Brock Lesnar, his credentials are good, but his freakish power is what's turning heads ... Has been wrestling handicap challenge matches and almost killed Alexis Laree in the TV title tournament ... Expected to show up in WWE in the very near future.

**156 LANCE HOYT** (6'9", 290, 2, 273) The big man from Dallas came into TNA as Kid Kash's cousin and resident enforcer ... A two-time NWA tag team champion with Kash ... Has lost some of his steam since Kash's abrupt departure from TNA ... A dispute with Bobby Rude has made Hoyt an enemy of all of Team Canada, so he has no shortage of potential opponents ... Rugged brawler learned a lot from being around Kash, including shoot-fighting and promo skills ... Finisher is the blackout, a sitdown power bomb.

**157 RHINO** (5'10", 250, 11, 57) It's been a topsy-turvy year for the man-beast ... Was released from WWE after WrestleMania, allegedly due to an incident at the hotel where he was staying ... Appeared at One Night Stand where he interrupted Rob Van Dam's promo and faced Sabu in an impromptu bout ... One month later, the former ECW World champion debuted in NWA-TNA at No Surrender where he gored Raven ... The big question is whether Rhino will pursue the NWA title or if he's just another one of Jeff Jarrett's pawns ... A former ECW TV, WWE tag, and WWE hardcore champion.

**158 HOMICIDE** (5'10", 220, 12, 192) Rugged brawler mixes traditional streetfight tactics with complex Japanese maneuvers ... Won a tournament to become the first Pro Wrestling Unplugged heavyweight champion, beating Sonny Siaki, Mana, and Trent Acid in June 2005 ... Known for his intensity and determination ... Homicide is one of ROH's top stars and has collected wins over James Gibson, American Dragon, Samoa Joe, Christopher Daniels, and many others ... Formed The Rottweilers with Ricky Reyes, Rocky Romero, and Low-Ki ... Teamed with B-Boy to win the JAPW tag belts from The Christopher Street Connection ... Beat C.M. Punk in the finals to crown a new Full Impact Pro champion.



**159 TAKA MICHINOKU** (5'7", 172, 14, 177) Inventor of the often imitated Michinoku driver, he coincidentally rose to fame in the rings of Michinoku Pro ... Now a top star with both All-Japan Pro Wrestling as well as the Kaientai Dojo company that he founded ... Former WWE light heavyweight champion, he held the now-defunct title for 10 months in 1997-1998 before losing to Christian ... Turned a lot of heads with a standout performance opposite Black Tiger at the 1994 Super J Cup ... Feuding with Kaz Hayashi—the two were partners in the original Kaientai along with Dick Togo, Shoichi Funaki, and Men's Teioh ... Has experience in Mexico and Puerto Rico as well ... Finishes off opponents with his crossface submission.

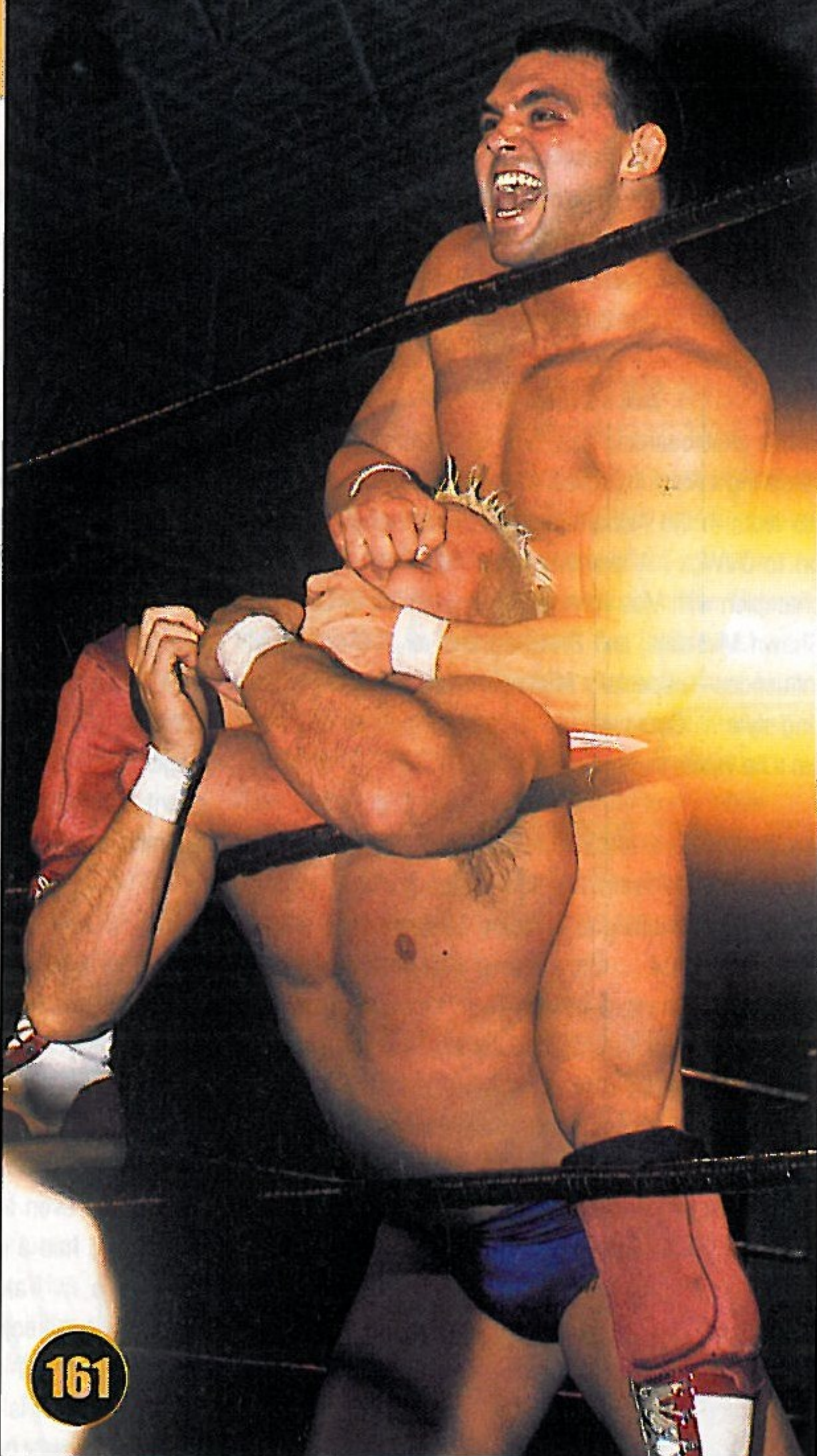
**160 DOS CARAS JR.** (6'4", 233, 5, NL) Son of famed Luchador Dos Caras, he is also the nephew of Mil Mascaras and Sicodelico ... Became an overnight sensation a few years back with an upset mixed martial arts win in Japan ... Incredible shootfighter with an Olympic-level amateur background ... Also noted for his amazing strength, he can gorilla-press opponents of any size ... Has a great German suplex ... Now with CMLL, he previously wrestled for AAA ... Towers over most Luchadores ... A popular *technico* practically since his debut ... His mat techniques, especially his armbars, are feared the world over.

**161 CHAD COLLYER** (5'10", 218, 8, 154) If Dean Malenko was Dr. Evil, Collyer would be his Mini-Me ... Two-time NCAA national finalist in wrestling (1995 and 1997) ... Made it to the semifinals of the 2000 Super 8 Tournament ... Adopted Majenko's Texas cloverleaf as his finisher and also boasts a wide variety of suplexes, just like "The Iceman" ... Has plenty of international experience and has made numerous appearances in WWE ... Briefly served as part of Jeff Jarrett's Elite Guard in TNA in 2004 ... A Ring of Honor mainstay who also competes in IWA-Mid South ... Also training in mixed martial arts in Ohio.

**162 VAMPIRO** (6'2", 214, 15, NL) Controversial Lucha star made a jump from CMLL to AAA in the spring and took his friend Shocker with him ... Instantly became a sensation upon arrival in AAA's ring, a big step up from the CMLL mid-card ... A former NWA lightweight champion ... Sometimes referred to as Vampiro Canadienese, or "Canadian Vampire" ... Former WCW star has tons of experience all over the world in all different styles ... Still pops up in Japan and Puerto Rico from time to time ... Seems to have buried his longstanding personal grudge with Konnan ... Known for his precision kicks, especially to knock an opponent off his feet ... His nail in the coffin is a Michinoku driver.

**163 RIKISHI** (6'2", 423, 18, 95) The big Samoan has been enjoying post-WWE life ... Currently wrestles mainly in Italy, but also pops up in the U.S. and other parts of Europe ... Teamed with Riki Choshu on Zero One's Hustle 5 show in September 2004 ... Still loved by fans of all ages ... Has held numerous singles and tag team titles throughout his career ... Many tag titles were won as a member of the Samoan Swat Team with Samu ... One of the few guys remaining on the circuit that can actually claim to have defeated Kerry and Kevin Von Erich for the WCCW tag title.

**164 TATSUNITO TAKAIWA** (5'10", 208, 11, NL) Master of the Death Valley driver started his career in the junior heavyweight ranks of New Japan Pro Wrestling as the partner of Koji Kanemoto and Shinjiro Otani ... Now competes for Otani's Zero-One Max group, which rose from the ashes of Shinya Hashimoto's original Zero-One Fighting Athlete



... Feared for his vicious lariats that can knock opponents out cold ... Popularized the repeating power bomb in Japan ... Sometimes converts it into his Death Valley driver ... One of Japan's most underrated performers, he is consistently excellent in both singles and tag matches.

**165 JOHNNY SWINGER** (6', 231, 12, 123) Released from TNA only to sign a WWE developmental contract ... Currently assigned to the Atlanta developmental promotion where he's training daily with kids almost half his age and experience ... Was part of the ECW defenders at One Night Stand, challenging the JBL-led anti-ECW contingent ... Trained alongside Edge, Christian, and Rhyno ... A tag team specialist who spent many years teamed with Simon Diamond in both TNA and ECW ... It'll be interesting to see how he fares as a singles competitor after spending so many years in the tag team ranks.

**166 BISON SMITH** (6'3", 277, 6, 193) Native of Boulder, Colorado, competes in Puerto Rico's IWA and is a top star in Pro Wrestling NOAH ... Beat Shane for the IWA Intercontinental title ... Aligned himself with the hated Savio Vega and became Savio's top weapon in his effort to gain control of the IWA ... Has been frequently compared to Vader in terms of style, though he

is much leaner than the former WCW champ ... Pet moves include his Bisontennial version of the Styles clash and his iron claw.

**167 BLACK WARRIOR** (5'7", 201, 19, 115) High-flying CMLL star regularly fluctuates between the *technicos* and *rudos* ... His tope through the ropes is famous throughout Mexico, as he routinely ends up five rows deep into the audience ... Also wrestled as Vegas and Destroyer early in his career ... Nephew of mat master Blue Panther, they were in a stable together called Los Laguneros ... A former NWA lightweight champion ... One of CMLL's most promising young wrestlers, he carved out his niche in the 1990s and has a solid fan following ... Pet finisher is *nudo lagunero*, a leglock in which he deadlifts his opponents off the mat to increase the pressure on the hold.

**168 BLUE PANTHER** (5'6", 211, 27, 127) Mexican mat wizard now teams with fellow veteran Atlantis to face down *rudo* tag teams in CMLL ... The uncle of fellow Luchador Black Warrior ... Has wrestled all over the world, but confines most of his activity to Mexico ... Held the CMLL trios title a few years back with Fuerza Guerrera and Dr. Wagner Jr. ... Was also a star for AAA, UWA, and PROMELL in the past ... His only big match in the States came at the 1994 When Worlds Collide pay-per-view broadcast from Los Angeles by AAA ... Technical prowess has gotten him compared to Ric Flair ... Makes opponents tap out to his Fujiwara armbar.

**169 SONNY SIAKI** (5'10", 242, 6, 122) The former X division champion has been with TNA since the company's inception ... Spent part of 2004 working with then-valet Desire in a feud with Goldyllocks ... Has perhaps more nicknames than anyone else in wrestling, going by "The Ace In The Hole," "Mr. Number One," and "Cocky Siaki" ... Fared well in feuds with D-Lo Brown and Jerry Lynn ... Obviously he thinks very highly of himself ... Briefly teamed with Ekmo Fatu ... Seems to have found a solid partner in Puerto Rican sensation Apolo ... Finishing move is the Siakalypse, a dangerous swinging neckbreaker.

**170 DICK TOGO** (5'9", 219, 14, 230) Once known as the masked character Sato in the days of Gran Hamada's Universal promotion ... Rose to fame through the ranks of Michinoku Pro before having a forgettable stay in the WWF seven years ago ... Appears all over the Japanese scene these days, from Zero-One to New Japan ... Was part of The Legion of Violence in Osaka Pro, and led the now-defunct Kaientai Deluxe stable of the 1990s ... A former British Commonwealth junior champion ... Affiliated with the CTU stable in New Japan ... Likes to plant his opponents with a pedigree to set them in position for his signature move, the top-rope senton.



**171 ACE STEEL** (5'9", 220, 13, 196) The veteran member of the Second City Saints in ROH ... Not sure what happens to him now that SCS leader C.M. Punk is in WWE ... Held a slew of titles, including IWA Mid-South light heavyweight, AWA tag, NWA tag, and Steel Domain Wrestling TV ... Currently calling World League Wrestling his home in the U.S. and Pro Wrestling NOAH his Japanese home ... Does dark matches and extra work for WWE when needed ... Feuded with Generation Next in ROH.

**172 ELEKTRO** (6'1", 215, 13, 169) Formerly known as Electro Shock when he wrestled for AAA, the man now called Elektro went independent in May, and has even appeared on some CMLL cards of late ... Brother of fellow Luchador Charly Manson ... Married Lady Apache, who also wrestles, in the ring ... Wears a small mask over his mouth and nose, like the one used to restrain Hannibal Lecter in *The Silence Of The Lambs* ... Spent many years as a *rudo*, but turned *tecnico* in 2003 and started to show off his technical skills ... Dabbled in mixed martial arts competition but was destroyed by Hikaru Sato ... Held the Mexican title for a short stint ... Now a regular fixture with IWRG, where he's vying to win the promotion's championship.

**173 LOW-KI** (5'7", 175, 6, 116) Still one of the most intense wrestlers on the scene today ... Jumped ship from Zero One in Japan to Pro Wrestling NOAH last year ... Although he can be controversial, he does it eloquently ... Maybe he can teach that to Teddy Hart ... When he's not in Japan, Ki can be found in

the New York area indies, ECWA, ROH, or Europe ... Former TNA X division and ROH heavyweight champ ... His kicks are some of the most wicked in the business ... A member of The Rottweilers in ROH, managed by Julius Smokes.

**174 SETH SKYFIRE** (5'10", 195, 4, 257) The former skateboarding champion was named Ohio Valley Wrestling's Most Improved Wrestler of 2004 ... First cut his teeth in the Alabama independents before moving on to OVW ... A two-time OVW Southern tag team champion with Mac Johnson ... Idolized Randy Savage, Shawn Michaels, and Bret Hart and all of those early influences—especially Michaels—can be seen in his ring style ... Could still use another 20 pounds of muscle if he wants to compete in WWE.

**175 GIANT BERNARD** (6'6", 360, 7, 105) The former A-Train is choo-chooing along in All-Japan Pro Wrestling after being released by WWE in November 2004 ... Often teams with Chuck Palumbo and Johnny Stamboli to face Taiyo Kea and Jamal ... Currently holds the Impact Zone Wrestling heavyweight title that he won in February 2005 ... His non-conformist appearance will always make him stand out in a crowd ... That's a nice way of saying he's a heavily-haired, heavily-pierced young gentleman ... Still uses the Baldo bomb as his finisher.

**176 JIMMY JACOBS** (5'7", 169, 6, 268) "The Barbaric Berzerker" is a crowd favorite with his Berzerker-inspired wooly boots and "Huss! Huss!" catchphrase (if you can call it that) ... Couldn't resemble The Berzerker less if he tried ... A native of "Goof City, USA," Jacobs competes primarily in Ring of Honor and Border City Wrestling ... Also wrestles in IWA Mid-

South and the IWC ... Won the ROH tag title with B.J. Whitmer ... It's an unlikely team, but they're doing well ... Jacobs and Whitmer occasionally use a doomsday device-type finisher, with Jacobs hitting a huracanrana from the top rope ... Jacobs sometimes carries a spike given to him by Kevin Sullivan inside his furry boots.

**177 RICKY REYES** (5'9", 192, 6, 194) The other half of the Havana Pit Bulls alongside Rocky Romero ... A tag team specialist who has culled several regional tag titles, including UPW, MPW, IWC, ROH, and EWF ... Has also held the UPW light heavyweight and IWC heavyweight titles ... A member of The Rottweilers in ROH, under the astute leadership of Julius Smokes ... Currently embarking on a singles career in ROH after a lengthy reign as tag champs with Romero ... Also a frequent competitor for New Japan USA, Pro Wrestling Guerrilla, and other Southern California promotions.

**178 TAIYO KEA** (6'1", 235, 11, NL) Formerly known as Maunukea Mossman in the days of Giant Baba's All-Japan Pro Wrestling, he changed his ring name a few years back ... Born in Honolulu, but trained to wrestle in Japan ... Has bounced back from a number of harrowing injuries, but isn't as quick as he used to be ... Still competes for All-Japan, and even teams occasionally with Keiji Muto, as the two had a great championship run just a few years ago ... Takes incredible punishment in his matches, but keeps coming back for more ... Precision chops and kicks are his signature strikes ... Favorite finisher is called the Hawaiian smasher—it's a fireman's carry he turns into an Ace crusher.

**179 PUMA** (5'9", 180, 5, NL) This West Coast competitor is creating quite a buzz on the indy scene with his Japanese *puroresu* style ... Trained in the New Japan USA Dojo ... Heavily influenced by the original Tiger Mask (Satoru Sayama) ... Has held the APW Internet and UIWA light heavyweight titles ... Has also appeared in ROH, TNA, MLW, and Mexico's CMLL, among other promotions ... Made it to the finals of the 2005 Super 8 Tournament with wins over Eric Matlock and J.J. Perez—before falling to Petey Williams ... Possesses lightning-quick speed and excellent counterwrestling abilities ... Favors the Tiger suplex and figure-four deathlock.

**180 MATT STRYKER** (5'11", 215, 6, 148) Don't mess with the brow ... This former Heartland favorite horrified fans by turning against his friend Cody Hawk and embarking on a rulebreaking rampage ... Has held the HWA heavyweight and cruiserweight titles, but sadly, gave up his title of "Mr. Congeniality" when he attacked Hawk ... Challenged Kurt Angle on *Smackdown* in the Angle Invitational ... When he's not doing WWE dark matches or competing in HWA, he also competes in Ring Of Honor, NWA Cyberspace, and Irish Whip Wrestling ... Finishers include the Stryker driver and the Stryker lock.

**181 GEDO** (5'7", 215, 12, 252) New Japan junior heavyweight is now part of the heel stable referred to simply as CTU ... Also in the group is his longtime tag team partner, Jado, and Jushin Liger ... A former IWGP junior tag champion ... Drew rave reviews for his matches against American Dragon and Curry Man last year ... Made it to the finals of this year's Best of the Super Junior Tournament, but was defeated by Tiger Mask IV ... Rose to prominence in Team No Respect alongside Kodo Fuyuki ... Has a great pinning combination in his barrel roll variation he calls the Gedo clutch.

**182 LATIN LOVER** (5'9", 199, 13, 46) Mainstay of AAA has been a *tecnico* virtually all of his career ... Popular character has spawned a few clones over the years, notably fellow AAA star Intocable ... Sometimes guest stars on Mexican soap operas ... Usually competes in trios matches ... A former National light heavyweight champion ... Muscular exotic dancer is an all-time favorite with the female fans of AAA ... Known for his long, dark hair and cat-like reflexes ... Hasn't seen a lot of action in the U.S., but some remember his appearance at the 1997 Royal Rumble ... Favorite finishing move is the superkick.

**183 RAY GONZALEZ** (6'1", 230, 15, NL) Widely considered to be the best all-around wrestler in Puerto Rico these days ... Has had a long-running feud with Savio "The Boss" Vega, with control of the IWA at stake ... Held the IWA title until Vega usurped control of the IWA and stripped him of the championship ... Gonzalez won the title back from Vega, only to lose it to Apolo ... Gonzalez is currently in possession of the papers that give him control of the promotion, but for how long? ... The most beloved wrestler in Puerto Rico today.

**184 AKIRA TAUE** (6'5", 272, 17, 279) Former All-Japan Triple Crown champ is now a star with Mitsuharu Misawa's NOAH promotion ... Challenged Kenta Kobashi for the Global Honored Crown in the last year and gave his best showing in some time, despite losing the bout ... Has lost a lot of his speed and agility over the years ... In-ring pace is methodical, to say the least ... Best known for his days tagging with Toshiaki Kawada for AJPW ... Still wears his familiar red trunks and boots ... Master of the *nodowa otoshi*, a low elevation, two-handed choke-slam that he can execute from anywhere, even from the apron to the floor.

**185 SIMON DIAMOND** (6'2", 225, 13, 78) After a brief identity crisis in TNA, Pat's back to plain ol' Simon ... Simon says he'd rather use this name ... This

young veteran is one of the unheralded journeymen of his time ... One of the best promo guys in the business if given the microphone ... A finesse wrestler who is better known for his mat work than his brawling ... Finally resurfaced in TNA after a name change and a partner change, as Swinger is now with WWE ... Competed in Japan this year for Zero One.

**186 HARRY SMITH** (6'5", 225, 10, 262) The lanky son of Davey Boy Smith is a puppy with big paws ... Started wrestling in front of crowds at age nine ... Upset Petey Williams in the first round of the Natural title tournament at Ballpark Brawl 2 in Buffalo last July ... Claims to have turned down several offers from WWE in order to gain international experience ... Teams with T.J. Wilson and The Stampede Bulldogs ... Uses a running powerslam as a tribute to his father ... Unlike his father, Harry also uses several Japanese-style moves, including the Emerald frosion and dragon sleeper ... Suffered a broken hand that required surgery on his first tour of Japan.

**187 JULIO DINERO** (6'2", 235, 11, 149) Formerly part of The Gathering with Raven and C.M. Punk in TNA ... Reprised his pairing with C.M. Punk at NWA Cyberspace to win the tag straps from The Solution on their first night together for the company, May

21, 2005 ... Unfortunately, the reunion didn't last as C.M. Punk is gone from Cyberspace ... Just another bad break for this young veteran ... A very talented wrestler who rarely gets a good chance to shine ... Wrestles all over the Northeast for various independents ... Sometimes wrestles dark matches for WWE ... Still has potential, if a promoter is willing to capitalize on it.

**188 TODD SHANE** (6'3", 278, 8, 208) A former NWA Florida heavyweight champion, but Todd is best known for his tag team with twin brother Mike ... The twins are former NWA, NWA Florida, IPW, and Jersey All Pro tag team champions and have signed WWE developmental contracts ... Todd is well-known in gyms around Tampa, Florida, for routinely squatting 800 pounds ... The brothers have toured Japan, Puerto Rico, Peru, and have competed throughout the U.S. ... Starred in a commercial for the Florida Lottery and several commercials for Sonny's BBQ ... Briefly competed under masks as the Johnsons in TNA.

**189 SKAYDE** (5'7", 174, 20, 201) Head trainer at Ultimo Dragon's Toryumon gym in Nuacalpan, Mexico ... One of Lucha Libre's most gifted technical wres-

tlers ... Has trained the majority of the Toryumon roster and many of Mexico's biggest stars ... Wrestles under the name Destello for the ENESMA promotion, and under his real name of Jorge Rivera for the Toryumon ... Masked Luchador has appeared only sporadically in the United States and Japan ... Inventor of hundreds of holds and moves ... Has wrestled in the U.S. for companies like CHIKARA, PWE, FNW, and CZW ... Relatively unknown outside of his native Mexico ... His bearhug spun into a face-slam is a solid move.

**190 MIKE SHANE** (6'3", 276, 8, 207) Mike and identical twin brother Todd are former NWA, NWA Florida, IPW, and Jersey All Pro tag team champions ... The brothers signed a WWE developmental contract in January and are part of the Deep South developmental territory in Georgia ... Mike was a top contender to the heavyweight title in Full Impact Pro before he signed with WWE ... Studied under Dean Malenko, though his power-based style bears little resemblance to Malenko's ... Long-time member of Ron Niemi's 911 Incorporated stable in Florida.





**191 CIMA** (5'11", 202, 8, 135) The top star of the Toryumon group joined Tokyo Magnum's renegade promotion Dragon Gate last summer, as did many of his Toryumon cohorts ... Has since taken a leave of absence from Dragon Gate and has popped up in Mexico, wrestling for AAA and other groups as well ... Lost in the finals of the 2000 Super J Cup in a career-making bout with Jushin Liger ... Won the El Numero Uno in 2003, beating Genki Horiguchi for the trophy ... Former leader of the Crazy Max stable that terrorized Toryumon and Michinoku Pro rings for years ... Likes to set up his iconoclasm from the turnbuckles with an uppercut blow known as Venus.

**192 DANNY DANIELS** (5'8", 203, 8, 247) The former ECW referee is a tag team champion in Border City Wrestling with N8 Mattson ... Career highlight to date was winning the 24-man Ted Petty Invitational Tournament in 2003 ... Trained by Al Snow ... Frequently competes in Ring of Honor ... Teamed with Masada as The New Carnage Crew in ROH and feuded with Loc and DeVito ... Uses several variations of the piledriver to defeat his opponents ... Almost always gives up a significant size advantage.

**193 JACK EVANS** (5'8", 165, 5, 214) The high-flying sensation out of P-Town, Washington, teamed with Teddy Hart to win the Jersey All Pro tag title from Homicide and B-Boy in a cage match in March 2005 ... Part of Generation Next in ROH ... Was given the rights to the Blitzkrieg name and gimmick but suffered a scary neck injury in his first match under the Blitzkrieg hood ... Was managed by Jim Cornette for one bout last year ... Currently feuding with former Generation Next leader Alex Shelley ... A death-defying aerialist, Evans is known for his magnificent corkscrew 630 splash.

**194 GLAMOR BOY SHANE** (6', 225, 12, NL) One of the most established non-native wrestlers to compete in Puerto Rico over the past several years ... A seven-time IWA heavyweight champion ... Stunned the fans when he turned against Ray Gonzalez and aligned himself with the hated Savio Vega ... Now known as The Canadian Glamor Boy, which just doesn't go over well in Puerto Rico ... A skilled technician, but Shane is best known for his hot temper and brawling ways ... Extremely fast with his "elbow from heaven," and very dangerous when coming off the ropes.

**195 STEVE LEWINGTON** (6'2", 220, 1, NL) Soft-spoken Englishman has a body that looks like it was chiseled out of granite ... Outside interests include bodybuilding, martial arts, rugby, and aviation ... Actually has a degree in aeronautical engineering and applied to be a pilot in the Royal Air Force, but his eyesight was not good enough ... Great vertical leap makes for crisp and flashy dropkicks ... Extremely popular with the ladies ... Imagine Hugh Grant with a bodybuilder's body ... Definitely one of OVW's top prospects.

**196 OSAMU NISHIMURA** (6'1", 220, 13, 211) Classic mat wrestler has honed his craft all over the world, in his home promotion of New Japan Pro Wrestling to Mexico's CMLL, in which he feuded with Dr. Wagner Jr., to the rings of Dory Funk Jr.'s conservatory in Florida ... Has been a New Japan mainstay for the majority of his career, and fans have embraced his clean technical style ... Protege of Tsumi Fujinami has rebounded from a battle with cancer and is in the prime of his career ... Favors holds like the royal octopus and the abdominal stretch ... Held the IWGP tag title with Hiroyoshi Tenzan a few years back ... Famed for his picture-perfect dropkick and textbook Northern Lights suplex.

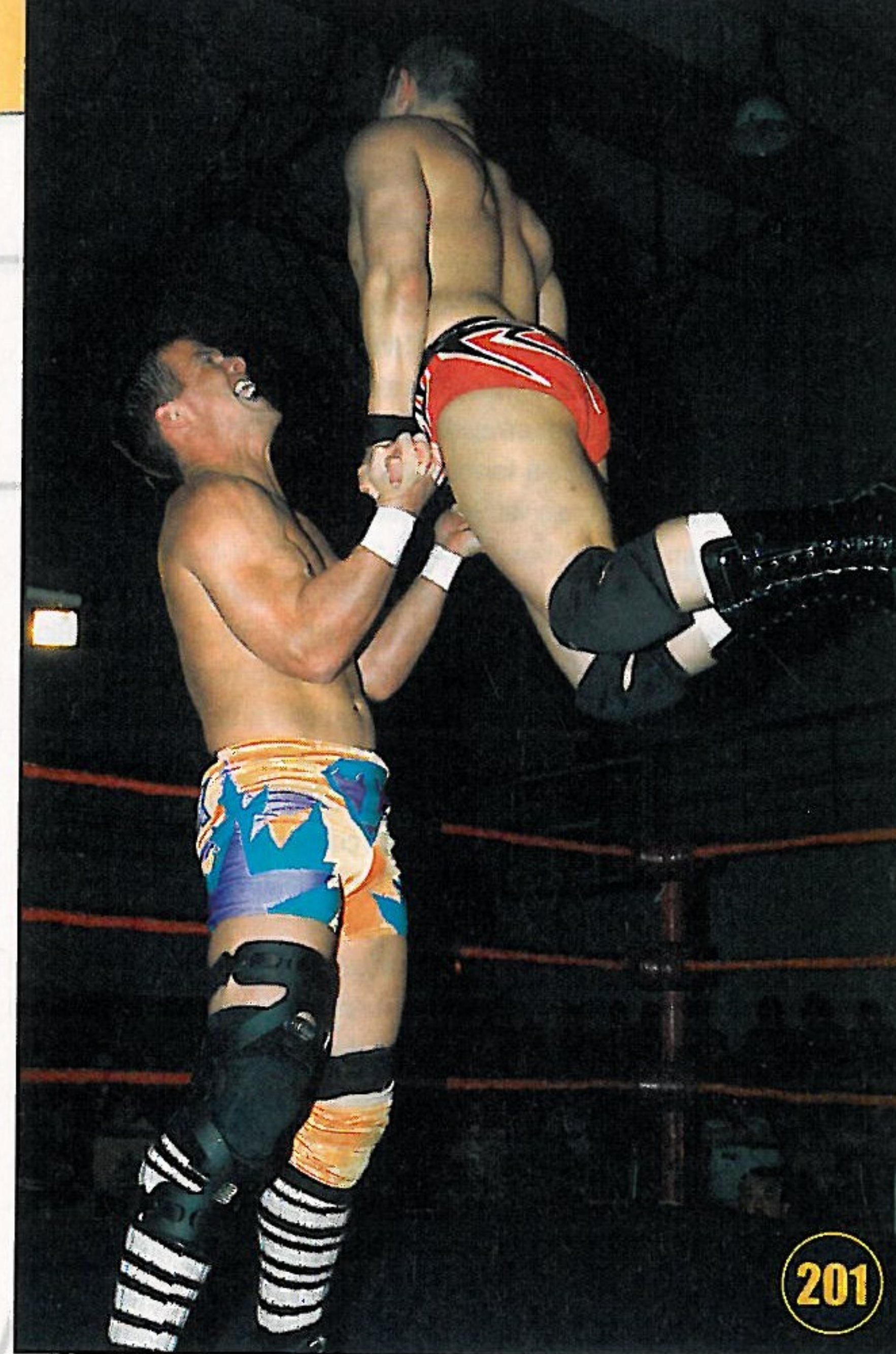
**197 ALEBRIJE** (6'1", 219, 9, 188) Beloved *technico* of AAA is a decided favorite with young

fans ... Wears a colorful, winged costume based on Mexican mythology ... "Mascot" Cuije is a virtually identical, albeit miniature version of Alebrije, but he doesn't compete in the minis division ... Has lost his hair in the past, but never his mask, thanks to bizarre AAA stipulation matches ... He and Cuije have been fighting the full-sized Luchador Monsther and his tiny sidekick, Chucky, for years on end ... Taller than the average Luchador, his gaudy and ornate ring uniforms make him stand out in any match ... One of Lucha Libre's most overlooked performers, he's finally becoming a regular main event player.

**198 HOTSTUFF HERNANDEZ** (6'6", 295, 6, 158) This former hot prospect has cooled down considerably in the past year ... Has wrestled all over the world during his relatively short career ... All-Japan capitalized upon his striking resemblance to Kurt Angle last year, letting it be part of his gimmick ... Now wrestles mainly in his home state of Texas for promotions like Xtreme Championship Wrestling and Professional Championship Wrestling ... Has held a slew of regional titles, including the Wildside title, NWA Texas, NWA North American, NWA National, ETW heavyweight, and TASW heavyweight belts ... Quite a power merchant.

**199 DAVID YOUNG** (6'1", 246, 6, 206) Two-time former NWA Wildside champion is probably wondering why he even bothers to show up for TNA *Impact* tapings these days ... Young has taken the art of losing to new lows with one reverse Goldberg-esque losing streak after another ... TNA losses aside, Young is a formidable grappler with many regional titles to his credit ... Trained by Larry Santo ... Has an absolutely lethal spinebuster (when he's able to land it) ... Teamed with Sonny Siaki to win the Georgia Championship Wrestling tag team title in July 2004.

**200 M-DOGG 20** (5'7", 177, 6, 233) Competes as both M-Dogg 20 and Matt Cross ... Has a long-running relationship with John Prohibition that has seen them feud and team ... Won the UWA heavyweight title in Toronto ... Made it to the finals of a cruiserweight tournament for WXW in Germany ... Also competed in a seven-show tour of Ireland, including two matches against the recently unretired Jody Fleisch ... Uses his gymnastics background to perform visually amazing moves such as the flagpole press and his jack-knife shooting star press ... Called "The Innovator Of Aerial Insanity."



**201 TYSON DUX** (5'10", 185, 8, 313) The man formerly known as "Textbook" Tyson Dux is back in the ring after undergoing major knee surgery ... Was scheduled to compete in the 2004 Super 8, but tore his ACL just weeks before the event ... Finally made it to the Super 8 this year, losing to J.J. Perez in the opening round ... Native of Windsor, Ontario, was trained by Scott D'Amore and Terry Taylor ... A three-time tag champion in Border City ... Has been wrestling in WWE dark matches for the past three years—his pigeon walk-style dance always gets a good crowd reaction ... Favors a traditional old school style and puts opponents away with a Japanese armbar or DDT.

**202 KEVIN NORTHCUTT** (6'6", 260, 11, 186) The big man formerly from Red Shirt Security had his shining moment as an NWA tag team champion with Legend ... Unfortunately that reign lasted only one week ... Trained by Sika the Wild Samoan ... Has feuded with Erik Watts, Don Harris, and Raven ... Also frequently teamed with Ryan Wilson ... Recently scored a win over B.G. James in the Alabama Wrestling Federation ... Appeared on WWF TV way back in 1999 ... Extremely powerful competitor with a staggering superkick ... Was briefly managed by Percy Pringle (Paul Bearer) in Louisiana's All Access Wrestling.

**203 JOSH DANIELS** (5'9", 211, 4, 209) This youngster is reminiscent of Chris Benoit in both style

and defended that belt against all comers, including Stevie Richards ... Eddie was betrayed by close friend Eric Alexander when Carlito convinced Alexander that Eddie was holding him back from winning the universal title ... Uses the figure-four leglock in honor of his father ... Has less experience than Carlito, but perhaps even more potential.

**205 YUJI NAGATA** (6'1", 228, 13, 96) The man fans nicknamed "Mr. IWGP" just a few years ago went from being Japan's hottest commodity to career purgatory ... Consistent performer is all but removed from the title picture in his home promotion of New Japan Pro Wrestling ... Set the record for IWGP heavyweight title defenses back in 2003 ... Ventures into mixed martial arts competition proved disastrous ... A technical wizard with a strong amateur wrestling background ... Had a short, forgettable stint in WCW ... Relies on his repertoire of hard kicks and submission holds ... Loves to force opponents to tap out to his three different NagataLock submissions.

**206 TONY KOZINA** (5'6", 177, 8, 215) "Tornado" Tony has been busy defending his third NWA Canadian junior heavyweight title from Vancouver, British Columbia, to Whitehorse in the Yukon Territory, and all points in between ... Finisher is the tornado death twist (TDT), a spinning facebuster ... Debuted in Ring of Honor with a win over AngelDust ... Stunned the fans by walking out of a Portland Wrestling TV taping, saying he would never return ...

and size ... Versatile wrestler who excels in both singles and tag team matches ... Mainly wrestles in Northeast independents ... Has extensive Japanese experience for someone just four years into his pro career ... A former Pro Wrestling World-1 tag champ and the current NWA Cyberspace Internet champ ... Finishes off opponents with a diving headbutt or a Dragon suplex ... Has all the ingredients to make a stellar career for himself.

**204 EDDIE COLON** (5'10", 225, 4, NL) The son of Puerto Rican legend Carlos Colon and the brother of WWE Intercontinental champion Carlito Caribbean Cool ... Had an intense feud with his brother last year ... The WWC universal champion, Eddie has taken after his father

Now competing as a heel throughout California and on the East Coast ... Received the 2004 Mike Lockwood Memorial Award in Pro Wrestling IRON ... Has wrestled several WWE dark matches.

**207 B.J. WHITMER** (6'1", 230, 5, 198) The straight man to funnyman Jimmy Jacobs in their impressive tag team ... Held the ROH tag title with Jacobs at press time ... Also held the belts twice before with Dan Maff ... Trained under Les Thatcher and toured Japan in his rookie year ... Also competes in IWA-Mid-South and has held that promotion's heavyweight title twice ... Old-fashioned wrestler utilizes Japanese-style exploder variations and is dangerous off the top rope ... Scored a win over Billy Gunn in an April IWA bout ... Won the 2002 Ted Petty Invitational Tournament ... Whitmer has wrestled in some of the bloodiest matches in ROH history.

**208 CHUCK PALUMBO** (6'2", 256, 5, 114) Palumbo has been staying busy competing in Japan and for Ultimate Pro Wrestling since being released from WWE last November ... Best known for his flamboyant tag team with Billy Gunn and their "commitment ceremony" in September 2002 ... Trained at the WCW Power Plant and first gained prominence as a member of The Natural Born Thrillers ... Was briefly a part of the Full-Blooded Italians before being traded to Raw ... Often teams with Johnny Stamboli and Giant Bernard (A-Train) in Japan ... Has an impressive suplex and shoulder block off the top rope, as well as a Lex Luger-inspired backbreaker.

**209 ULTIMO DRAGON** (5'8", 186, 20, 134) Leader of the Mexico-based Toryumon X recently launched a new Japanese venture called Dragon Door to oppose rival group Dragon Gate ... Appears frequently with both New Japan Pro Wrestling and CMLL ... Gave up his Dragon identity last year and sometimes wrestles as Second Tiger ... Botched elbow surgery was thought to have ended his career years ago ... His 2003-2004 stint with WWE was forgettable ... Made waves in the early-1990s under his given name of Yoshihiro Asai, feuding with Negro Casas ... A former IWGP junior, WCW cruiserweight and J-Crown champion ... Now uses the Asai DDT as a finisher.

**210 B-BY** (5'10", 198, 6, 218) This Southern California native is one of the hottest prospects on the independent scene ... He has held slew of titles from all parts of the country ... Made it to the finals of this year's CZW Best of the Best Tournament, an event he won in 2003 ... Teams with Homicide in JAPW, in which they held the tag belts ... A brutal competitor who can beat opponents with either his fists or his technical arsenal ... That explains why he has hardcore and cruiserweight title reigns to his credit.





**211 MASADA** (6'3", 235, 4, 240) This Texan has blazed a trail of destruction through the Southeast, most notably in NWA Wildside and Florida's Impact Pro ... Former Carnage Crew member in Ring of Honor, in which he was involved in some of the most violent matches in the promotion's history ... Teamed with Todd Sexton in Wildside as The Texas Death Club to win the tag title ... Also competes in IWA Mid-South ... In his spare time, he's a death metal musician ... Why not? Death metal fits the tattooed look he sports.

**212 JINSEI SHINZAKI** (5'10", 207, 12, 232) President and head trainer at Japan's northeastern Michinoku Pro company, he took over for long-reigning head Great Sasuke when Sasuke's political career took off ... Japanese middleweight has traveled the world and wrestled in the WWF for a year under the moniker Hakushi—he was covered in tattoos and managed by Shinja ... Has wrestled for New Japan, All-Japan Pro Wrestling, and FMW during his career ... Slow, methodical wrestler ... Former teammate of Hayabusa ... Has cat-like agility and can walk the ropes effortlessly ... His signature move is the praying power bomb, but he sometimes likes to make opponents submit to his straightjacket camel clutch.

**213 JOHN WALTERS** (6', 222, 5, 236) "The Hurricane" held the ECWA heavyweight title from May 2004 to February 2005 ... Broadened his fan base with his run as Ring of Honor pure champion ... After dropping the ECWA title, Walters decided to take a little bit of time off to heal some nagging injuries ... However, he suffered a severe neck injury in his last ECWA appear-

ance in March and had to be helped from the ring ... A return date has yet to be set ... Competed in the 2004 Super 8 Tournament, beating Nicho (Psicosis) before losing to Austin Aries ... A soft-spoken technical wrestler in the mold of Chris Benoit and Lance Storm.

**214 DR. X** (5'8", 193, 10, NL) Former National welterweight champion is quickly becoming a sensation with CMLL fans ... Hard-working undercard star is also a former trios champion ... Regularly teams with the likes of Nitro and Hooligan against CMLL's *tecnicos* ... Originally wrestled as Dr. O'Borman Jr. until legal problems prompted a name change ... Loosely affiliated with Los Guerreros del Infierno ... As adept at power moves as he is flying in and out of the ring ... A submission specialist, his pet move is like an upside-down Boston crab in which his opponent's hands get trapped beneath him.

**215 SCOTT D'AMORE** (5'11", 247, 12, NL) "One thing I know about the rest of my life/I know that I'll be living here in Canada" ... That may be a line to a song by the Canadian band Sloan, but it could be D'Amore's credo as well ... The rotund coach of TNA's Team Canada is a true veteran ... Competed in WCW from 1993 to 1996, once scoring a win over Dallas Page ... Also competed for WWE and ECW ... Believe it or not, he has a nifty little moonsault and is a tremendous submission wrestler ... Claims to be retired, but was goaded into matches against Dusty Rhodes and Jerry Lynn, and looked good in both bouts.

**216 MIKE KRUEL** (5'10", 225, 5, 243) The former ECWA heavyweight champion got a chance to shut JBL's mouth by answering Layfield's "Rocky Challenge" in Philadelphia, but couldn't get the job done ... An extremely skilled submission-style

grappler who's known as "The Shooter" ... Looks a bit like a slightly smaller Brock Lesnar ... A second-generation wrestler, Krue is the son of veteran Bodyguard For Hire ... Has feuded with John Walters, Austin Aries, Striker, Cheetah Master, and Fred Sampson ... Has also appeared in Ring of Honor, Chaotic Wrestling, 3PW, and USA Pro ... Could become a force in the ROH pure title picture, as that style suits him perfectly.

**217 RICKY BANDERAS** (6', 245, 8, NL) The most dangerous chair-swinging freak in Puerto Rico ... Considered one of the most dangerous wrestlers in the IWA, both because of his brutal chair shots and his willingness to sacrifice his own body to inflict pain on others ... Actually got wilder when IWA management started cracking down on his violent attacks, as he now gets fined every time he uses a chair ... Held the IWA Intercontinental and hardcore titles simultaneously twice in 2004 ... Aligned with Ray Gonzalez in his feud with Savio Vega ... Feuded with Bison Smith and Hangman Hughes.

**218 JAY LETHAL** (5'9", 192, 3, NL) This former Special K member in ROH has become the year's hottest singles prospect on the Northeast independents ... Wrestles primarily for Ring of Honor and Jersey All Pro, in which he is the current heavyweight champion ... Has already held multiple titles in JAPW, UCW, and JCW ... Outside of the ring, he's a college student studying multimedia ... Trained by Mikey Whipwreck, but mentored by Dan Maff ... Finishes off opponents with his Jaytrix, a matrix kick.

**219 MINORU TANAKA** (5'8", 201, 7, 107) Sometimes referred to simply as MINORU these days, he spent the last couple of years under the gaudy disguise of Heat in his home promotion of New Japan Pro Wrestling, but the character was a flop ... Started his career in Big Japan Pro Wrestling around the same time Yoshihiro Tajiri was there ... Has competed in Mexico ... A former IWGP junior tag champ with partner Koji Kanemoto ... Affiliated with the CTU heel stable in New Japan ... Held the IWGP junior heavyweight title twice as Tanaka and once as Heat ... Trademark finisher is the Minoru special, a Northern Lights suplex floated into *jujigatamae*.

**220 FELINO** (5'7", 190, 23, 200) Super-quick *technico* is the son of Pepe Casas and the brother of Negro Casas and Heavy Metal ... One of the oldest active Luchadores on the CMLL roster, he defies nature by remaining one of the most agile men in Mexico ... A former CMLL welterweight and trios champion ... Recently won a 10-man cibernetico, last defeating Mephisto ... Cat-like reflexes help him both on the mat and in the air ... Also wrestles frequently for the Naucalpan-based IWRG group ... His signature bodysuit is complete with tiger stripes and fur, making him easy to identify ... Favorite move is a seated power bomb from the turnbuckles.

**221 HEAVY METAL** (5'7", 181, 17, 184) Brother of Negro Casas and Felino ended his decade-long stay with AAA this year and joined his brothers in CMLL ... Lost his long locks in a hair match more than a year ago, and has since kept his hair relatively short ... Son of legendary referee Pepe Casas ... Wears an odd combination of checkered pants and racing goggles to the ring, sometimes even wearing the goggles to wrestle ... Former National welterweight champion is the current IWRG champion ... Appeared at the 1997 Royal Rumble in a trios match ... Popped up in the States for TNA, but hasn't done much with the company lately ... Uses his father's pet hold, *la casita*, better known as *la magistral*.

**222 MIKE MONDO** (5'7", 229, 3, 328) Godzilla feats Mike Mondo, at least according to Kenny Bolin ... "The Giant Killer" is one of the trainers at the OVW Training School ... Most of his peers feel WWE has made a mistake by not bringing him up, as his charisma and comic timing—not to mention his wrestling skills—are tremendous ... Won the New York Wrestling Connection heavyweight title with a win over Joey Matthews in March ... Dropped that belt to Matt Striker ... Serves as the diminutive enforcer of Bolin Services ... Often compared to Crash Holly ... Actually lost to Alexis Laree in a tournament for the OVW TV title, thanks to interference from Brent Albright ... Also lost to Victoria after he foolishly challenged any woman in the arena.

**223 JOSH PROHIBITION** (6', 200, 4, 241) Prohibition has come a long way from his backyard

days and is earning respect as a talented and innovative commodity ... Has defended the CAPW junior heavyweight title against Nigel McGuinness, Alex Shelley, Matt Striker, Chris Sabin, Petey Williams, and on-again/off-again partner M-Dogg 20 ... Faced Austin Aries for the ROH heavyweight title on a UWA card in Toronto ... Calls his double-underhook piledriver finisher the drunken driver ... A former UWA light heavyweight and PWA heavyweight champion.

**224 VANCE NEVADA** (5'11", 214, 12, 298) "Mr. Beefy Goodness" is still fighting to make a bald head and hairy chest fashionable ... Good luck with that ... One of the most visible wrestlers on the Canadian independent circuit ... First cracked the "PWI 500" back in 1994, but this is his highest ranking to date ... Mainly a singles competitor, but sometimes teams with Dropkick Murphy as Canadian Flava in Portland Wrestling ... Dropped the Extreme Canadian championship in November 2004, ending a 14-month reign ... Has wrestled some big names, including The Honky Tonk Man, Tatanka, Jack Evans, and American Dragon ... An active wrestling archivist and historian.

**225 DEUCE SHADE** (6'2", 230, 6, 334) Previously known as Jimmy Snuka Jr. and is the legitimate son of "The Superfly" ... Like his father, likes to use the Superfly splash as his finisher ... A former Mr. Hawaiian Islands in bodybuilding ... Won the tournament to crown a new OVW TV champion in June 2005, beating Ken Doane in the finals ... Previously teamed with The Predator in Japan's Zero-One promotion ... Competed in independent promotions on both the East and West coasts before receiving a WWE developmental deal and settling down in OVW.

**226 BRONCO** (5'9", 235, 23, NL) Native of the Dominican Republic has made Puerto Rico his home base since 1991 ... Was the island nation's top heel for most of the past year, until he was attacked by his friend Rico Suave ... A wild feud ensued between the former partners ... Held the WWC universal and Puerto Rican championships simultaneously for a few weeks in 2004 ... Compact, muscular

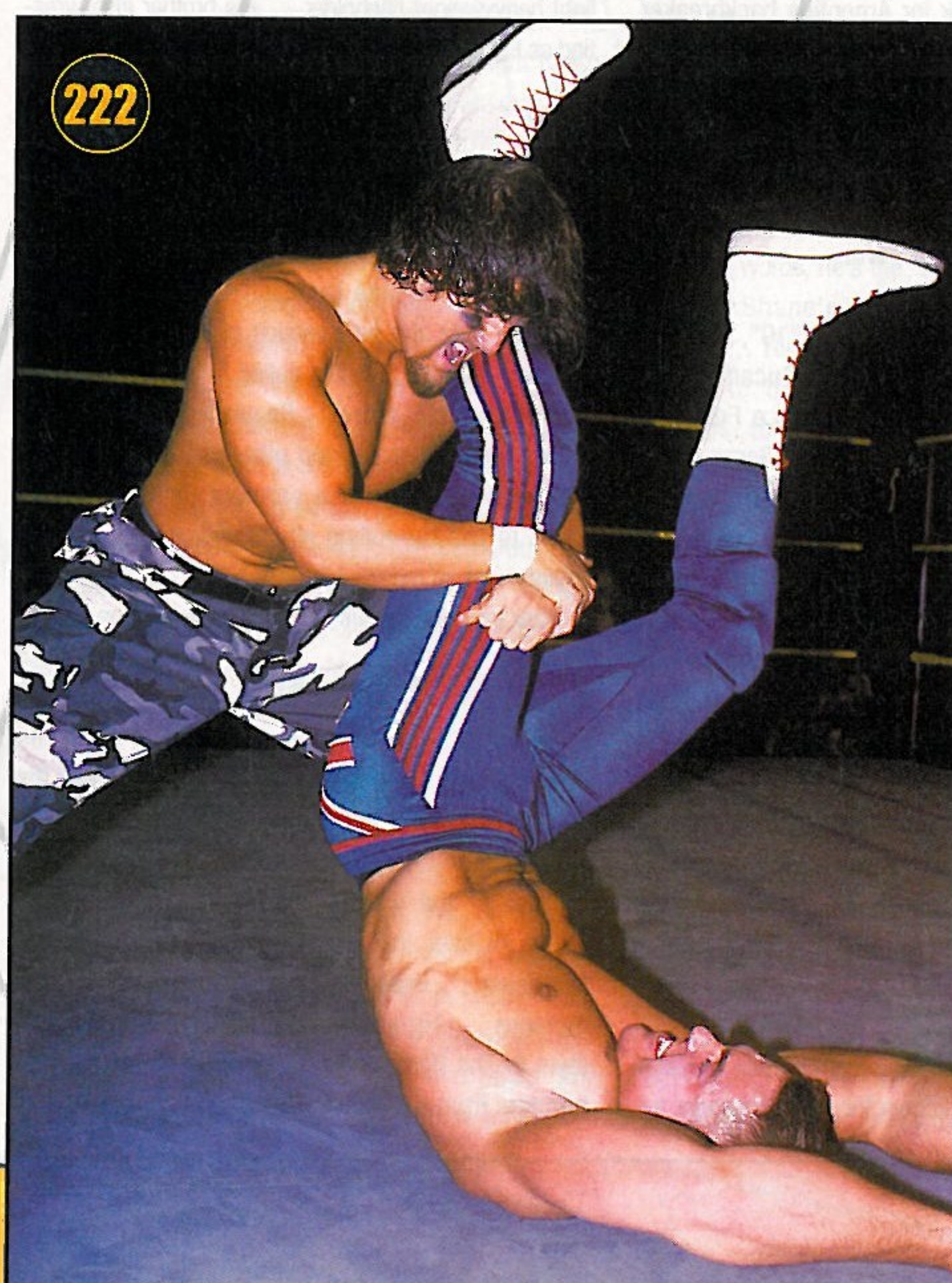
frame affords him a low center of gravity that gives him leverage over bigger foes.

**227 THE BLUE MEANIE** (5'11", 285, 11, 234) Apparently, getting your tail kicked by JBL is a good career move. Who knew! ... The Blue Guy reunited with Stevie Richards and Nova in the Blue World Order at One Night Stand, only to get brutalized by JBL during the impromptu battle royal ... The buzz on that incident was enough for Meanie to consider filing a lawsuit because of the injuries he suffered ... Instead, he settled for a *Smackdown* match against the self-proclaimed "wrestling god," leading to the biggest win of Meanie's career, thanks entirely to Batista's interference ... Is still in charge of 3PW, despite a recent falling-out with former gal pal Jasmin St. Claire ... Regardless of JBL's feelings, Meanie is one of the most charismatic wrestlers out there—though he could use some pointers on how to cover his face during a brawl.

**228 DRAGON KID** (5'6", 165, 7, 172) Ultimo Dragon's namesake left the Toryumon to join Tokyo Magnum's upstart Dragon Gate promotion this year ... Still counted among wrestling's finest high-flyers ... Won the 2004 El Numero Uno Tournament ... Wrestled extensively in Mexico at the beginning of his career, just like Ultimo Dragon ... Famed for two daring variations of the huracanrana, the Dragon ray and his Dragonrana ... Unmasked Darkness Dragon a few years back, and the two later became a short-lived tag team ... Likes to make opponents tap out to *el cristo*, an unusual head and arm submission hold.

**229 TONY JONES** (6'5", 265, 8, 213) This Southern California veteran has settled in as a Pro Wrestling Iron mainstay after years on the SoCal indy circuit ... Teams with Jason Brisbane ... Held the APW universal heavyweight and tag titles ... A NCAA California Collegiate champion in 1994 ... His extensive amateur background helps him maintain his "Shooter" nickname ... His intense, cool demeanor never reveals his emotions—which is a good thing in combat sports ... His German automatic finisher of three consecutive German suplexes is devastating.

**230 T.J. WILSON** (6', 195, 10, 303) "The Stampede Kid" formed a strong tag team with Harry Smith, winning the PWA (Edmonton) tag belts in October 2004 ... Started wrestling at age 15 and was trained by Bruce Hart and Davey Boy Smith ... Also teams with the controversial Teddy Hart from time to time ... Patterns his ring style on his childhood hero, Owen Hart ... His favorite moves include the swan dive elbow and his rolling stampede ... Has competed in ROH, MLW, Jersey All Pro, and several other promotions and has toured Japan several times ... A very promising prospect.





**231 RODNEY MACK** (6'2", 240, 7, 159) Has been competing primarily in NWA-Cyberspace since being released from WWE ... Trained by The Junkyard Dog, Mack competed in OVW as Redd Dogg and imitated many of JYD's mannerisms ... Was once one of OVW's most popular stars, but became a rulebreaker upon joining WWE ... Held the OVW Southern tag title with Shelton Benjamin ... Has been feuding with Slyck Wagner Brown in recent months ... Was a Louisiana state wrestling champion in the heavyweight division in high school and was an All-American in wrestling and football in college.

**232 RODERICK STRONG** (5'10", 205, 4, 304) Best known as one-half of Generation Next

alongside Jack Evans in Ring of Honor ... Another Kurt Angle Invitational victim, having been defeated by Angle in January 2005 ... Excellent technical wrestler ... Participated in ROH's Best of the Super Juniors Tournament in April ... Wrestles in Florida for FIP and NWA Florida ... Has steadily gained confidence and seasoning this year, bolstering his reputation ... Wrestled C.M. Punk on June 12 in a match that got a standing ovation from the crowd ... Although he lost, Punk put him over as the future of wrestling.

**233 SEAN CASEY** (5'9", 210, 13, 229) Casey is the only pro wrestler other than Shawn Michaels ever to be featured in the pages of *Playgirl* magazine ... This Cincinnati, Ohio, native was trained by Charlie Fulton and Brian Pillman ... The veteran with the flowing locks has been a dominant Blue Water Championship Wrestling heavyweight champion and has successfully defended the belt against Chris Sabin, Shark Boy, and Tommy Titus ... Like his idol, Michaels, Casey likes to use a superkick to set up his mindblower (inverted Ace crusher) finishing move.

**234 MANABU NAKANISHI** (6'1", 266, 10, 167) Powerful heavyweight star with New Japan Pro Wrestling infused some life into his dormant career by becoming affiliated with the growing CTU heel stable that also includes Masa Chono and Jushin Liger ... Held the IWGP tag title twice, once in 1999 with partner Yuji Nagata, and once with in 1997 with Satoshi Kojima ... Master of the torture rack, or Argentine backbreaker ... Trained briefly under Karl Gotch in Florida ... Heavyweight is finally finding consistent singles success in New Japan ... WCW fans may remember his brief stint as Kurasawa here in the States, during which he broke Road Warrior Hawk's arm.

**235 TARZAN BOY** (5'10", 206, 12, NL) Former partner of Rey Bucanero and Ultimo Guerrero now forms La Furia del Norte with fellow *rudos* Hector Garza and El Terrible ... Had a short stint with the WWF years ago under the name Armando Fernandez ... A former CMLL trios champion, as well as a former NWA light heavyweight champ ... Has had his share of troubles with Atlantis and Dr. Wagner Jr. during the last few years ... Handsome young Luchador is the bane of Arena Mexico fans ... Failed in his bid to win the tokohu junior title from Atlantis this past year—the title has since returned to Michinoku Pro ... Famed for his precision armdrags.

**236 JERRELLE CLARK** (5'6", 180, 6, 305) A frequent tag team partner of Mikey Batts, Clark is known for his spectacular top

rope 630 splash ... Hence his nickname "Mr. 630" ... Also likes to use his Clark bar submission and pumphandle face plant ... Started out on the Florida independent scene before debuting in TNA as an X division competitor ... Though he's had some success with Batts, Clark is setting his sights primarily on the X title ... Former NWA Florida X and junior heavyweight champion ... Previously teamed with Cutthroat Bonez as The Cutthroats.

**237 SLASH VENOM** (6'2", 220, 13, 308) Previously known as Flash Flanagan, Slash Venom has been an integral part of IWA Puerto Rico for the past two years ... Has held the IWA hardcore title several times ... Sustained minor injuries after falling from the second floor of the arena in a wild match against Ricky Banderas ... Like Mick Foley, has a reputation for loving to inflict—and feel—pain ... Has feuded with Bison Smith, Hangman Hughes, and anyone else who dares get involved in the hardcore title scene ... Also returned stateside to wrestle in ROH this year.

**238 PANTERA** (5'7", 188, 20, NL) Independent star of Mexico has been a regular with both AAA and CMLL in the past ... Still remembered for his WWF light heavyweight bouts with Taka Michinoku in the late-1990s ... Black and white striped outfit is known the world over ... Also competes in Japan from time to time ... Famed for his wild suicide dives, including some in which he somersaults onto opponents laying on the arena floor ... Well-regarded as a bona fide mat master ... Also wrestled under the name Triton in years gone by ... A former CMLL welterweight and National light heavyweight titleholder ... His brother also wrestled as Pantera ... Has a graceful moonsault bodyblock.

**239 MASATO TANAKA** (5'11", 213, 12, 100) Returned to U.S. competition with a hair-raising match against Mike Awesome at the ECW One Night Stand pay-per-view that reprised their brutal old feud ... Wrestles full-time in Japan for Shinjiro Otani's Zero-One Max, the new version of Zero-One Fighting Athlete ... Leads a stable called The Erotics against Otani's Otani-gun army ... Regularly teams with Jun Kasai, Yoshito Sasaki, and others ... Enjoyed fame with FMW as one of the promotion's top stars ... Loves to use the rolling elbow, which people often misinterpret as *roaring* elbow ... Calls his flipping Ace crusher from the middle turnbuckle the diamond dust.

**240 SHANE BALLARD** (5'9", 195, 6, 21) It's very difficult to distinguish Shane from his identical twin brother, Shannon ... Has worked his love of hockey into a hilarious gimmick ... Opponents aren't laughing, though, since the Ballards are one of the toughest teams around ... Competes all over the West Coast, Canada, and the Northeast ... Has also appeared for WWE in dark matches ... He and his brother are very close in style to The Hardy Boyz ... Inspired by the Hanson brothers from the movie *Slap Shot*.

**241 JOE E. LEGEND** (6'3", 252, 9, 274) This Canadian star now finds himself as the toast of Europe, Japan, and South America ... Made a name for himself by openly criticizing both Jeff Jarrett and TNA for what he sees as a lack of business tact ... Was cast as a trainer for the ill-fated *Celebrity Wrestling* show in England ... He had to train a team of wannabe wrestlers for a career in the ring ... Unfortunately, the show bombed ... May be best remembered as the other half of Sex & Violence with Adam "Edge" Copeland ... Given Edge's recent dalliance, we guess Joe was the "violence" part of that team.

**242 MIKE QUACKENBUSH** (6', 191, 14, 224) The wrestler, author, and trainer has traveled the world and captured more than two dozen championships along the way ... Currently feuding with Chris Hero, Claudio Castagnoli, and Arik Cannon in his home promotion, CHIKARA ... Credits his new finishing move, the Quackendriver 2, for his recent hot streak ... Serves as head trainer at the CHIKARA Wrestle Factory in Philadelphia, but also teaches and wrestles all over Europe ... Won the fifth annual Best of the Best Tournament hosted by CZW ... Inventor of the black tornado slam and the Lightning lock ... Routinely wrestles on the Mexican Lucha Libre circuit.

**243 DEAN JABLONSKI** (6'3", 275, 9, 255) Absolutely massive physical specimen is a dominant force in Far North Wrestling ... Often teams with his brother, Chet, as The A-Squad, but is equally adept at singles competition ... The current World Wide Wrestling champion in Cincinnati, Ohio ... Dean "The Dream" was the first ever FNW heavyweight champion ... Trained by Les Thatcher ... Based in Pittsburgh but competes throughout the Midwest.

**244 TORU YANO** (6'2", 245, 4, NL) Colorful Japanese madman first made his mark at the New Japan Inoki Dojo by intentionally getting himself disqualified in every match for a four-month period ... Has impressive technical skills and an amateur background, but chooses to eschew those skills in favor of spitting sake and throwing salt in his opponents' eyes and hitting people with his umbrella ... Teams with Adam Pearce as "The Beer And Sake Connection" ... Considered a heavy favorite for New Japan's recently revived U-30 title ... Recently attacked Nakamura in an effort to break out of the Young Lions division.

**245 GREAT SASUKE** (5'8", 180, 15, 191) *Senator* Sasuke can now be found in the halls of the Japanese Diet as often as he can be seen flying around the rings of Michinoku Pro, the northeastern independent company he founded back in 1993 ... Wrestled as Masa Michinoku and Ninja Sasuke early in his career ... Cut his teeth in Gran Hamada's Universal promotion ... Won the Tohoku junior title from Mexican legend Atlantis ... Lucha-influenced

high-flyer has some graceful moonsaults in his repertoire ... Was the first man to hold the eight unified J-Crown titles in 1996 ... Had brief stints in both the WWF and ECW in the 1990s ... Favorite finishers include the royal octopus hold and the thunder fire bomb.

**246 CODY HAWK** (6'2", 220, 11, 265) After years of being a fixture in the Heartland Wrestling Association, lost his spot when he was betrayed by his partner, Matt Stryker ... But before that betrayal, Hawk and Stryker had a run as HWA tag team champions before being stripped of the belts by majority owner Brock Guffman ... Beat Shark Boy for the Buckeye Pro Wrestling heavyweight title, a belt he successfully defended against Abyss ... Favors the muscle buster as his finisher of choice.

**247 DIAMANTE** (5'11", 224, 13, NL) Returned to the WWC after initially leaving that promotion for the rival IWA ... Turns out the grass wasn't greener on the other side of that fence ... Recently returned from a serious back injury ... Has held the WWC tag title with both Diabolico and Bronco ... Currently searching for a new partner so he can regain that title ... Beat Eddie Colon for the universal heavyweight title ... Known for his explosive, high-powered offense.

**248 SHANNON BALLARD** (5'9", 220, 6, 223) Even with the different numbers on their hockey sweaters, we still can't tell him from his twin brother, Shane ... The musically inclined brother ... In other words, he's the Jeff to Shane's Matt Hardy ... Ring style is close to that of the Hardys, too ... Competes all over North America ... Finisher is the penalty box ... A former hockey player, just like his brother.

**249 MILANO COLLECTION A.T.** (5'11", 179, 5, 231) Star of the defunct Toryumon 2000 Project (T2P), he defected to Dragon Gate with many of his Toryumon classmates, but recently decided to become a free agent

... Former leader of the Italian Connection stable ... Trained by Skyde in Mexico ... Kickstarted his career with a number of lopsided wins over Ryo Saito ... Claims to be an Italian supermodel, and typically walks an invisible dog to ringside ... Not to be confused with Milantio Collection a.t., the mini version of this wrestler ... Loads his arsenal with submission moves like *la nieblina* and his personal favorite, the AT lock arm submission.

**250 FRANK PARKER** (6'3", 285, 12, 263) "The Tank" briefly considered retirement last year after the death of his father, but has rediscovered his passion for wrestling ... Feuding with Rick Steiner and Raven in the Superstar Wrestling Federation ... Beat Shady for the SWF hardcore title in May 2005 ... Was scheduled to fight The Barbarian, but neither man could wait and the match was cancelled when they got into a fight backstage ... Beat Johnny Blast to become the Undisputed West Virginia champion ... Has an unbelievable huracanrana for such a big man ... Signature move is the facelift a fireman's carry into a stunner.





## 251 VINNY MASSARO (5'9", 259, 6, 266)

The powerful Sicilian is known for his unorthodox offense and his creativity in inventing new submission holds ... Calls himself "the Albert Einstein of wrestling" ... Massaro has been testing himself against international competition in Pro Wrestling Iron... Also competes for XPW, UPW, and several other independent promotions ... Main weakness is his conditioning, as he becomes visibly tired in matches that go longer than 20 minutes ... One of his best finishers is his sitdown tombstone piledriver he calls greetings from the pink poodle.

## 252 MIKE TAYLOR (5'10", 220, 1, NL)

Talented rookie has moved from Ohio Valley Wrestling to the new Deep South developmental territory ... The move gave him an opportunity for a makeover ... Now known as "The Bounty Hunter," he has begun wearing face paint and wrestling a more aggressive style ... Clips out photos of his opponents and posts them in the corner before his matches to make sure he's about to put the hit on the right guy ... Spent four years in the Marine Corps before joining OVW.

## 253 ROD STEEL (6', 210, 5, 355)

Florida competitor is not to be confused with OVW's Rod Steele ... Known as "The Miami Pound Machine" ... Steel is a former IPW heavyweight champion, IPW tag team champion, and IPW cruiserweight champion ... Now a part of Ron Niemi's nefarious 911 Incorporated ... Lost a brutal bloodbath against Steve Madison at Rage in the Cage 2005 ... Also has competed in CZW, NWA-Wildside, FIP, NWA-Spinebuster, and Combat Fusion ... Main finishing move is the South Beach slam and the long stoke (an inverted neckbreaker).

## 254 IADO (5'6", 198, 12, 245)

New Japan junior heavyweight star is the regular partner of Gedo, and the duo is now affiliated with Masa Chono's CTU stable ... A former IWGP junior heavyweight champion ... Finished in last place in his block at this year's Best of the Super Junior Tournament ... Held the IWGP junior tag title with Gedo, but they lost the belts to the unlikely duo of Curry Man and American Dragon ... Had some excellent tag bouts this year against other New Japan regulars like Tiger Mask IV and Minoru Tanaka ... Formerly a key player in FMW's Team No Respect group ... Made a few appearances with ECW in the States a few years back.

## 255 MAC JOHNSON (6'1", 200, 3, 378)

Lafayette, Louisiana, native moved to Louisville right out of high school and enrolled

at the OVW Training School ... Last year, we wrote that Johnson was one of the more promising OVW youngsters who did not have a WWE developmental contract, but that was rectified when Johnson signed a developmental deal in February 2005 ... Formed a popular tag team with Seth Skyfire ... Idolized Curt Hennig as a boy and has tried to pattern himself after "Mr. Perfect."

## 256 TURBO (5'6", 169, 7, NL)

Incredible high-flyer of the ENESMA promotion is reminiscent of a young Rey Mysterio Jr. ... Colorful masked man has a race car driver outfit, complete with a helmet-like mask ... Protege of Lucha veteran Skyayde ... His matches opposite Black Thunder have been the highlights of many LML cards ... Native of Mexico City ... One of the few Mexican wrestlers to ever appear with Ultimo Dragon's Toryumon X company ... A rising favorite among hardcore fans due to his daredevil antics ... Strings together armdrags and headscissors with blinding accuracy.

## 257 ALASTAIR "A-1" RALPHZ (6', 235, 3, NL)

Don't bother with the steak sauce cracks—he's heard them all before ... Massive physical specimen got saddled with the "A-1" name when Disco Inferno misread his name (Al, short for Alastair Ralphs) as A-1 ... Often accompanied to the ring by the gorgeous Jade Chung ... Beat D-Lo Brown for the Border City Wrestling heavyweight title in December 2004 ... Entered TNA as part of Team Can-

ada at the behest of Coach Scott D'Amore ... Formerly aligned with Johnny Swinger in BCW ... A graduate of the Can-Am Wrestling School ... Has appeared on both WWE *Velocity* and *Heat* ... "A-1" has been compared by some to a young Triple-H.

## 258 STRIKER (5'10", 225, 6, 323)

Would the real Striker please stand up? ... Striker has made a name for himself with his comedic impressions of veteran wrestlers like Randy Savage, The Legion of Doom, The Ultimate Warrior, and many others ... He didn't learn that from his trainer, Johnny Rodz ... A widely traveled competitor, Striker has competed in WWE, 3PW, Zero-One, USA Pro, and in England ... Though he likes to goof off with his promos, Striker is a formidable competitor and definite title threat, having held the NYWC heavyweight and tag belts and the CCW heavyweight title ... An accomplished tag team wrestler.

## 259 TAKASHI YOSHIDA (5'10", 235, 1, NL)

Prize student of the Los Angeles Inoki Dojo made his pro debut at Toukon 7, losing to his trainer, Webster Dauphiney ... Honed his skills all over California in WPW, WAR, AWS, and other promotions ... Teamed with Angel in a double-dog collar match at the second SoCal Super Show against The Santino Brothers ... Finishing move is the Samurai Shote palm strike ... Made his debut for New Japan in a dark match against Slyck Wagner Brown ... A former arm-wrestling champion in Japan.

## 260 D-RAY 3000 (5'10", 180, 2, 310)

D-Ray and his afro are conquering new worlds in 2005 ... First appeared in NWA-TNA where he scored a series of upsets wins over David Young ... Became a cult favorite and began teaming with Shark Boy ... Still seems confused most of the time, but at least he's winning a good portion of his matches ... Has also been busy wrestling in Border City Wrestling and Blue Water Championship Wrestling ... Tried to do a springboard move off the ropes as a tribute to Sabu at a December 2004 benefit show for Sabu and nearly killed himself ... Referee should check his hair for foreign objects.

## 261 MINORU FUJITA (5'9", 195, 8, 239)

Freelance star has wrestled all over the world, including for the IWA in Puerto Rico, IWRG in Mexico, and for CZW and Jersey All Pro during a brief tour of the United States back in 2001 ... Top star of Taka Michinoku's Kaientai Dojo group ... Reformed his classic BattlArts tag team with Ikuto Hidaka—the two went all the way to the finals of this year's Differ Cup Tournament before losing to Naomichi Marufuji and KENTA ... Sometimes appears with New Japan Pro Wrestling and Zero-One Max ... Teamed with Shinya Makabe for most of his stay in Puerto Rico ... Has great German and Dragon suplexes ... Uses an unorthodox submission hold as his finisher, a reverse viper hold he calls boneyard.

## 262 BABI SLYMM (6'3", 285, 4, NL)

The C.E.O. of Keep It Gangsta runs his own clothing company when he's not wrestling ... Pinned Adam Pearce in a "AWS Idol" match to become the first ever AWS heavyweight champion ... Both men actually sang to the audience before the match began ... Also training at the New Japan Inoki Dojo ... Has successfully defended the AWS belt against American Dragon, B-Boy, and others ... Teamed with frequent rival Pearce to face "Diamond" Dallas Page and Mike "The Miz" Mizanin in UPW ... Managed by C. Edward Vander Pyle ... Trade-mark finisher is the Birdman slam.

## 263 THE AMAZING RED (5'6", 147, 4, 165)

Once considered a huge part of the future of cruiserweight wrestling, Red has slowed down considerably since suffering a serious knee injury ... Back in TNA, but not making the sort of impact he made there in the past ... Compensates for his lack of size with some of the most innovative attacks in the sport ... Incredibly resilient, Red is able to absorb an ungodly amount of punishment ... Credited with being one of the men who originally popularized TNA's X division ... If he's going to wrestle a more conservative style, he needs to bulk up and add a lot more muscle mass.

## 264 EL GRAN APOLO (6'4", 285, 9, 291)

Apolo has been one of the most controversial wrestlers in Puerto Rico over the past few years ... Was a dominant IWA champion until he finally dropped the title to Shane ... Apolo made no bones about the fact that he was unhappy

in the IWA and attempted to jump to the WWF in a blockbuster move ... But just one day prior to his scheduled WWF debut, Apolo came to terms with the IWA and returned to the company ... Has had several brief stints with TNA, during which he has often teamed with Sonny Siaki.

## 265 PRINCE NANA (5'11", 35, 9, 251)

A legitimate prince from the Ashanti tribe of West Ghana, Africa ... Has expanded his Embassy from the ECWA to Ring of Honor ... Heaps abuse on his valet/slave girl, the beautiful Jade Chung ... The Outkast Killas recently left the Embassy, sickened by Nana's treatment of Chung ... Has also wrestled in dark matches for WWE and toured Japan with Zero-One ... One of the best promo men anywhere in the sport ... Previously held the ECWA Mid-Atlantic title ... Teamed with Arch Kincaid in this year's ECWA Tag Team Summit.

## 266 MIKEY BATTS (5'7", 173, 2, NL)

Frequently teams with Jerrelle Clark in TNA ... Batts currently holds the NWA Florida X division championship and is a top contender to NWA junior heavyweight champion Jason Rumble's title ... Also held the NWA Florida tag title with Clark ... A cousin of Billy Kidman ... Trained by Kidman and Roderick Strong ... Primary finisher is his version of the code red, which he calls the Napoleon complex ... Small in stature, Batts is known for his fighting spirit and perseverance.

## 267 PREDATOR (6'6", 307, 6, 161)

This behemoth is currently splitting his time between wrestling for UPW and competing in the mixed martial arts group K-1 ... Teams with Tom Howard in UPW ... Former UPW heavyweight and Zero-One U.S. champion, as well as a 1993 NCAA champion ... Originally moved from Pennsylvania to California in pursuit of an acting career ... Resembles Bruiser Brody in both wild appearance and brawling style ... Favorite moves include the spin doctor and the fisherman buster.

## 268 CHICANO (6'1", 220, 5, NL)

One of the rising stars of the IWA, Chicano defeated Glamor Boy Shane to win the heavyweight championship in April ... Suffered an ugly injury in January 2005, but zoomed back to the top, thanks in part to training from his mentor, Invader I ... Previously teamed with Slash Venom, with whom he held the IWA tag title on two occasions ... Also won the hardcore and IWA Intercontinental championships in the past year.

## 269 CHET JABLONSKI (6'1", 232, 5, NL)

Trained by Les Thatcher, the Heartland Wrestling Association alumnus signed a WWE developmental contract in February 2005 ... Previously teamed with his brother, Dean, as The A-Squad ... A five-time HWA tag champion, Chet has held that title with his brother (twice), Derrick Neikirk (once), and Cody Hawk (twice) ... Beat Matt Stryker for the HWA heavyweight title in 2002 ... Also had a successful run in Puerto Rico's IWA that saw him win that tag title with Kasey James ... His finisher is called "hit the showers," because that's the end of the match.

## 270 GRAN HAMADA (5'4", 190, 34, 275)

Living legend of Lucha and *puroresu* is now wrestling through his fourth decade in the business ... Sometimes teams with his daughter, *joshi* star Ayako Hamada ... Junior heavyweight has outlasted all his contemporaries ... Former star of New Japan, Universal, Michinoku Pro, and other promotions is now a regular with All-Japan Pro Wrestling ... Years of a full-time schedule have started to slow down this high-flyer ... Sometimes dons a mask as Mini Love Machine ... Known for his windup headbutts ... A decorated champion over the years, he helped popularize Lucha in Japan ... Has one of the sport's best huracanranas.





aged to guest star on two episodes of the TV show *One Tree Hill* ... Collects titles everywhere he goes ... Has faced just about every big name in the business ... Says "Nobody can go toe-to-toe with The Stro."

**276 ERIC ALEXANDER** (6'4", 250, 4, NL) Rose to prominence as part of the IWA's new generation of stars, but jumped to the WWC looking for better treatment ... Joined The Starr Corporation upon signing with the WWC ... Won the Puerto Rican title from Bronco during a lengthy feud ... Was furious with WWC matchmakers after he was forced to defend that belt against a newcomer named Brian in his very first match in the company ... Of course, Alexander lost that bout ... Became a pawn in Carlito Caribbean Cool's war against his brother, Eddie Colon, by turning against his former friend (Eddie) to put himself in position for a shot at the universal title.

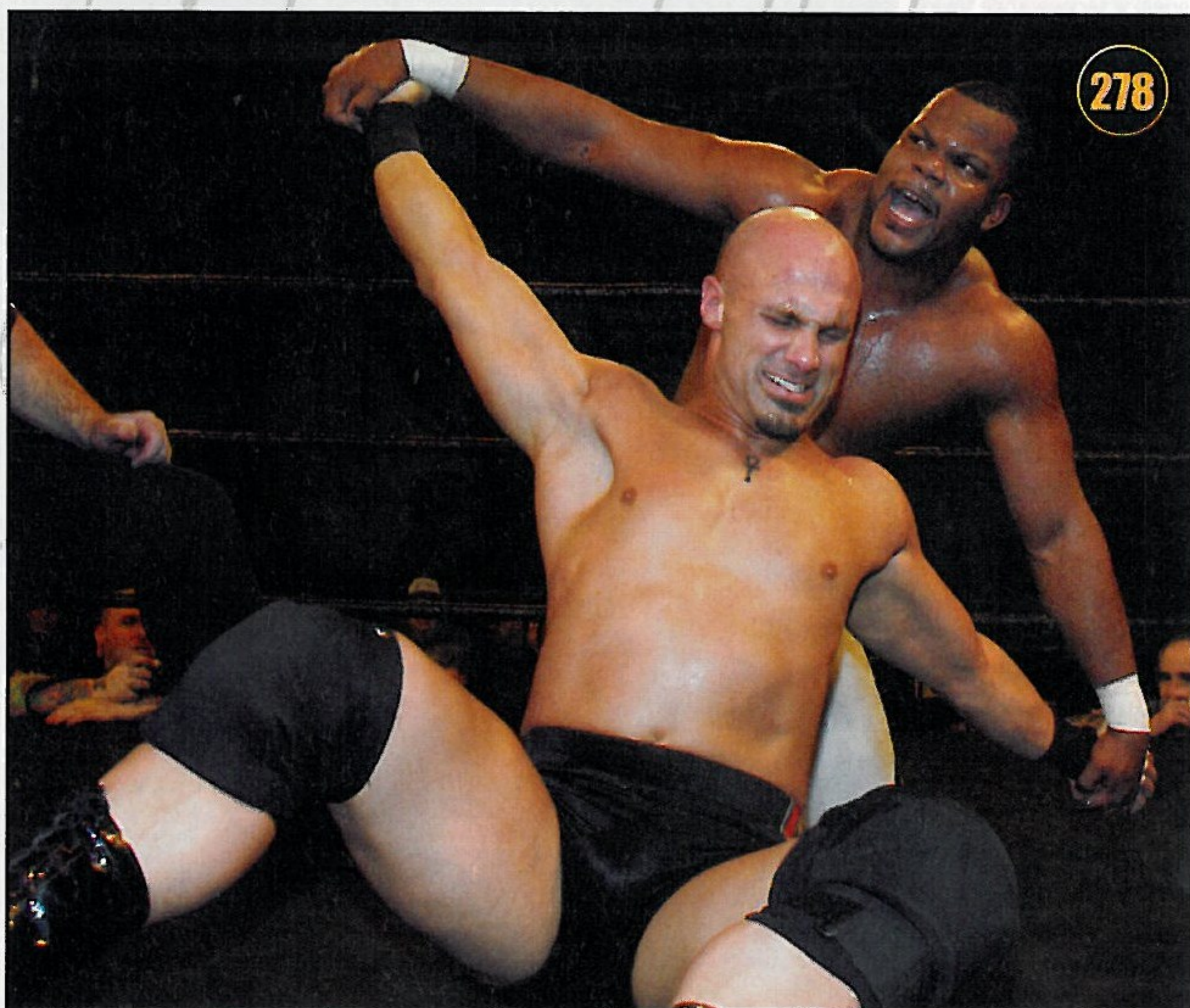
**277 QUIET STORM** (5'8", 180, 4, 226) This young New Yorker has returned from Japan after several extended tours with Michinoku Pro ... His compact size and technical acumen are perfect for the Japanese style ... Now competes almost exclusively in New York Wrestling Connection, but has competed in Ring of Honor, the ECWA, and several other New York area independents ... His quiet, shy demeanor outside the ring doesn't prepare his opponents for his brutal intensity in the ring ... Seemed to have a bright future just two short years ago, but he now seems to have stagnated.

**278 SLYK WAGNER BROWN** (6'2", 220, 7, 299) Brown scored the biggest win of his career

when he defeated Christopher Daniels to win the 3PW heavyweight title in February 2005 ... Ended up losing that title to Amish Roadkill in a three-way match that also involved Simon Diamond ... Turned down an amateur wrestling scholarship to attend Killer Kowalski's pro wrestling school ... Managed by April Hunter ... In addition to his appreciation bomb (seated power bomb) finisher, Brown also uses his drop of xstacy (full-nelson seated slam) and Slysault moonsault.

**279 KEN ANDERSON** (6'2", 225, 7, NL) "Kamikaze" Ken signed a WWE developmental contract in February 2005 and has been competing in Ohio Valley Wrestling ... Has appeared on WWE television several times over the past five years, facing such stars as William Regal, Rosey, and Rodney Mack ... A former ACW heavyweight, TV, and tag team champion ... Recently aligned with Tank Toland in Tank's feud with Chris Cage ... He's now part of the Blond Bombshell faction in OVW ... Finisher is his big Kenton bomb.

**280 STEVE MADISON** (5'10", 224, 4, 339) Known as "The Modern Miracle" ... Madison was the youngest NWA-Florida champion in the 70-year history of that title ... Lost the NWA-Florida belt in a three-way match that saw Roderick Strong get pinned by Rod Steele, meaning he lost the title without ever being pinned or submitting ... Has toured Asia, Europe, and Puerto Rico ... Trained by Steve Keirn ... Has made several WWE dark match appearances ... Finishers are the brainbuster and axe bomber.



**281 TOM HOWARD** (6'4", 260, 11, 205) This veteran tough guy has whittled down his wrestling schedule to include just UPW in California ... That's so he can focus on his MMA career in K-1 ... This move isn't as crazy as it seems, since Howard has an extensive knowledge of shootfighting ... He's well-versed in sambo, hwa rang do, freestyle wrestling, and Greco-Roman wrestling ... A former UPW heavyweight and NWA Intercontinental tag champ ... Has wrestled all over the world ... A former WWE developmental wrestler.

**282 THUNDER** (5'10", 240, 5, NL) One-half of Thunder and Lightning, the most successful tandem in Puerto Rico over the past five years ... The shorter—and more powerful—member of the masked team ... Has been sidelined since suffering an injury in January ... Thunder and Lightning have held the IWA tag title three times over the past year and are 10-time WWC tag champions ... Can be considered The Road Warriors of the Puerto Rican wrestling scene and are clearly the team to beat in the IWA.

**283 ARIK CANNON** (5'8", 210, 4, 354) "The Anarchist" beat Petey Williams for the IWA Mid-South heavyweight title during the 2004 Ted Petty Invitational Tournament ... In addition to Williams, Cannon has faced a "who's who" of independent superstars in the past year, including C.M. Punk, American Dragon, and Homicide ... Would be ranked higher if not for several injuries in the past year, including a broken collarbone suffered against Austin Aries that kept him sidelined for four months and a torn plantar fascia and sprained ankle suffered in a TLC match against Joey Envy and Kory James that kept him out of the ring for a month ... Finisher is the glimmering warlock, a shining enzuigiri.



**284 ARCH KINCAID** (6', 225, 6, 343) "The Intellectual" is the only wrestler who can boast a bachelor's degree in rhetoric, so of course he's a natural on the stick ... Part of the ECWA-Chaotic talent exchange ... Hosts a "Piper's Pit"-style interview segment in ECWA called "The World According To Arch" and "Kincaid's Compound" in Chaotic ... Has feuded with Scotty Charisma, Cheetah Master, and Fred Sampson ... Has made a few WWE appearances ... Also competes in the IWF ... With his promo skills, is a good bet to make it to WWE at some point.

**285 KEVIN DUNN** (5'10", 188, 5, NL) Teams with Marcos as The Ring Crew Express in Ring of Honor ... Trained by H.C. Loc ... Dunn is a standout singles competitor in NWA-Upstate, where he is known for his unbelievably stiff chops ... Frequently uses his version of the Gory bomb and the burning hammer ... Also gets great height on his elbowdrop from the top rope ... Has held championship gold in Buffalo Championship Wrestling, Rochester Pro Wrestling, and NWA-Upstate ... Lost the NWA-Upstate No Limits title to Petey Williams.

**286 ONYX** (5'9", 217, 5, 244) Onyx grabbed a record third NWA Wildside heavyweight title with a win over Rainman in April 2005 ... Had a brief stint in TNA as part of Jeff Jarrett's Elite Guard along with Chad Collyer and Hotstuff Hernandez ... Previously played football in the CFL ... Has wrestled several WWE dark matches under the name Kyle McKinley ... Pound-for-pound, he has one of the most stunning physiques in wrestling ... Known to surprise opponents with a pristine dropkick ... Calls his primary finisher the blaout ... Feuded with Ray Gordy.

**287 MANA** (6'4", 320, 4, 359) "The Polynesian Warrior" is in the midst of a long-running feud with Abyss that has seen many of their matches degenerate into brutality and bloodshed ... The fastest-ever graduate from the Wild Samoan Training Center has faced America's Most Wanted, Sandman, Mahoney, Crowbar, and other big names in the past year ... Wrestles all over the Northeast ... He's also had Mick Foley interfere in his matches and had gotten tips from Batista during his second reign as WXW heavyweight champion ... The current champion of Connecticut Championship Wrestling.

**288 NAPHTALI** (5'11", 165, 8, 335) NWA-Florida competitor claims to come from Badstreet, U.S.A. ... He couldn't have lived "in the last house on the right," unless he was roommates with The Freebirds ... Choice of home town is an indication of Naphthali's old school preferences ... Uses the Polish hammer, the Garvin stomp, and the heart punch to set up for his shining wizard finisher ... Captured the NWA-FL X division title with a win over Sedrick Strong and O.G. Scarface in a TLC match ... Follows C.M. Punk and the New Dawn to the ring in a wheelchair under the name Milo Beasley in Florida Impact Pro.

**289 SCOTTY MAC** (5'8", 205, 5, 300) Scotty Mac recently won the ECCW/NWA-PNW heavyweight title for a third time ... Held the Portland Wrestling heavyweight and tag team titles simultaneously ... Turned heel in February 2005 and began feuding with Juggernaut ... Mac—once touted by the legendary grappler Len Denton as the future of the industry—has taken those words to heart and is more obnoxious than ever ... Has formed an alliance with Machete Brown ... Wrestled two matches in Ireland this year.

**290 DANIEL PUDER** (6'2", 230, 1, NL) Introduced to WWE fans as a contestant on *Tough Enough IV*, which he went on to win, earning a four-year, \$1-million contract ... Trained in kickboxing and mixed martial arts ... Completely humiliated Kurt Angle by taking up Angle's challenge and almost snapping his arm with a key lock ... Some people respected Puder for that, and others thought he was being unprofessional by trying to show up Angle ... Chosen as the Best Kisser of all *TE* finalists by Mae Young ... Destroyed Mike Mizanin in a boxing match at Armageddon 2004 ... Got the stuffing kicked out of him at the 2005 Royal Rumble but—hey—they can't take away the contract!



## 291 HUMAN TORNADO (6'3", 180, 2, NL)

Lanky competitor is extremely charismatic and energetic ... A former Los Angeles light heavyweight champion, Tornado lost that title to Quicksilver ... Unmasked AWS heavyweight champion Masked Spymaster II, revealing the masked man to be Adam Pearce ... Once hit a "slam dunk huracanrana" in a match held in a gymnasium by dunking a basketball at the top of a standing huracanrana on Topgun Talwar ... Known for his low-blow resistant, "Pimp Of The Year" grapefruits.

## 292 JUGGERNAUT (6'4", 395, 8, 307) Proved

his name wasn't a joke as he went undefeated throughout 2004 ... Juggernaut holds 1st degree Black Belts in Kodokan Judo and Japanese Jujitsu ... Won his sixth ECCW/NWA-Pacific Northwest heavyweight title by beating Scotty Mac ... Was scheduled to face Matt Borne in August with Mick Foley as guest referee ... Sometimes managed by Princess Lily ... Is scheduled to tour India, Singapore, Malaysia, and Brunei this fall ... Also won the TFW North American title and the TFW tag title with The Wrenner ... Finishers are the K-drill and the gadzooga.

## 293 RAY GORDY (5'11", 218, 4, 345) The

son of Terry "Bamm Bamm" Gordy is being closely watched by WWE talent scouts ... Made a few appearances in Ring of Honor and impressed the discerning ROH fans ... Has also competed in Pro Wrestling NOAH and the now-defunct NWA Wildside ... Known as "The Pearl Of The Enterprise," which just doesn't role off the tongue as easily as "Bamm Bamm" ... Main finisher is the German suplex, but Gordy also has an impressive swanton bomb in his arsenal ... Has feuded with Onyx and Rainman.

## 294 SETH SHAI (6', 225, 6, 361) The man who

set records for number of championships won throughout Texas and the Southwest independents added another belt to his resume when he beat Lenny Lane for the NAWA heavyweight title ... Credits Bret Hart, Rick Martel, and Ivory as his primary influences ... Known as "The Darko Pantha" ... Usually uses either the sharpshooter or his Pantha clutch to put away opponents ... Has recently begun teaming with Mace, a partnership that has yielded them the UWF tag title.

## 295 VORDELL WALKER (6', 235, 3, NL)

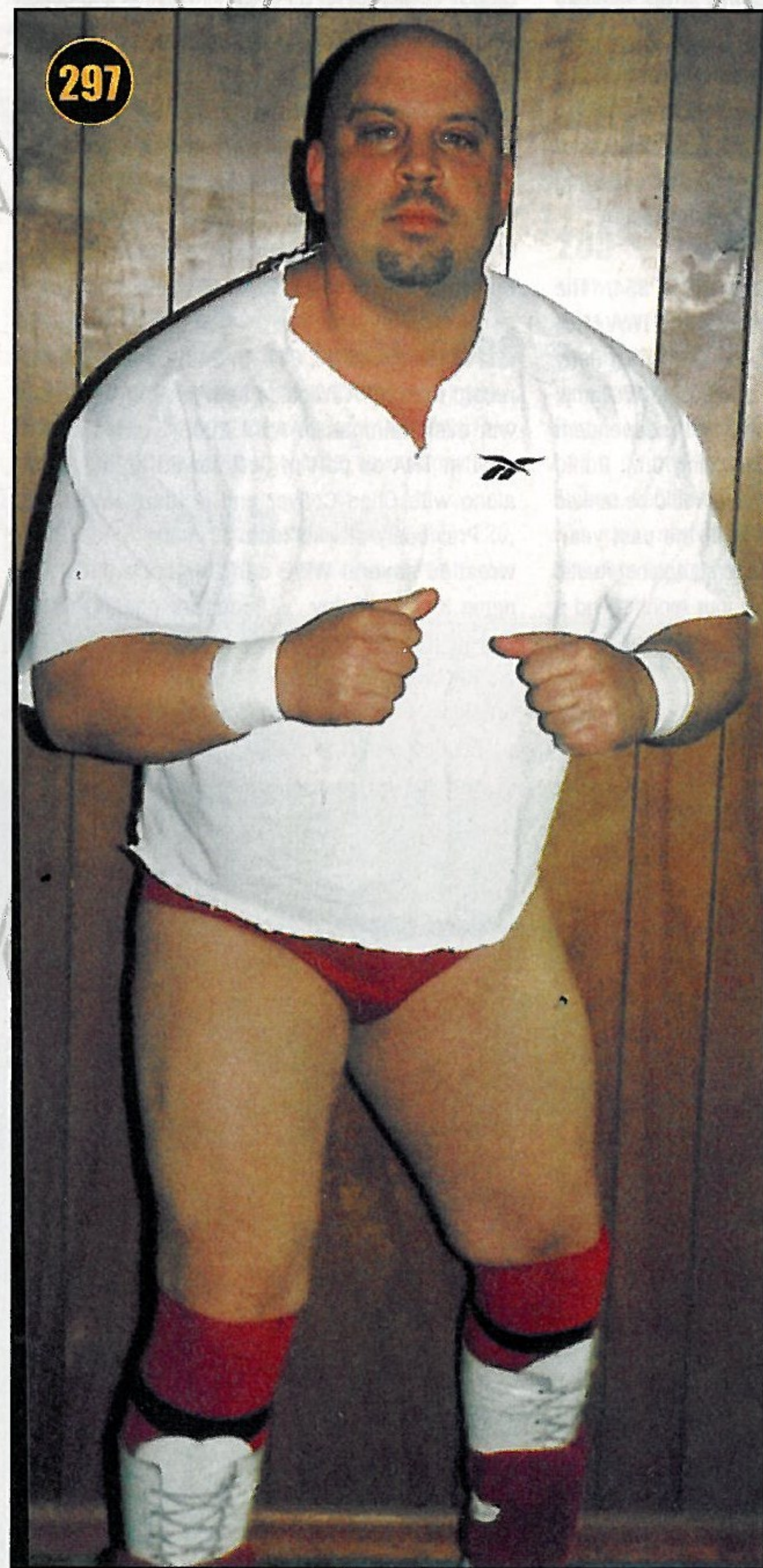
"The Shooter" has wrestled extensively throughout the Southeast for NWA-Florida, SCW, Combat Fusion, and FIP, and recently debuted in Ring of Honor ... Was taken under the wing of "The Black Nature Boy" Scoot Andrews before Andrews' retirement ... Recently faced FIP champion Homicide in a non-title match ... Has appeared on NWA-TNA *Impact* and *Xplosion* ... Wins matches with his vortex swinging uranage and 450 splash.

## 296 STEVE DeMARCO (6'1", 230, 5, 387)

"Sexy" Steve has held every title in PCW and is the reigning PCW heavyweight champion ... Suffered a severe knee injury going into PCW's big Triplexmas card and lost the TV title to Brett Barnes ... Still managed to win the tournament to crown a heavyweight champion just one week later, beating three men despite wrestling with strained ligaments in his knee ... Feuding with Shadow and his dastardly minions, Tim Storm, Apocalypse, and Damien.

## 297 BRAD BRADLEY (6'4", 248, 4, 246)

Illinois native has found a home in IWA Mid-South ... Finishing move is the lariat, which ranks among the most dangerous in the sport ... Trained at the Steel Dominion Wrestling school ... Has appeared on NWA-



TNA *Xplosion* and has wrestled for New Japan USA ... Teamed with Ryan Boz to win the IWA Mid-South tag titles ... Bradley and Boz have managed to beat such teams as Petey Williams and Alex Shelley and The Thomaselli Brothers ... Also teams with Trik Davis ... Has been extensively scouted by New Japan.

## 298 ALEX ARION (5'7", 205, 7, 261) "The

Golden Greek" has been competing in New England Championship Wrestling, NWA-New England, and Green Mountain Wrestling ... Also has appeared in Ring of Honor and competed in the 2003 Super 8 tournament ... Main finishing move is his reverse double jump bodypress ... Has competed in WWE dark matches ... Short stature often causes larger opponents to take him lightly, which usually ends up being a mistake.

## 299 JOEL MAXIMO (5'9", 200, 4, 195) The

Spanish Announce Team is still one of the most in-demand teams on the independent circuit, but they have lost some of their luster over the past year, dropping more than 100 spots in the "500" ... Still uses the beach break, a belly-to-back piledriver, as well as dozens of double-team moves along with his brother, Jose ... Appeared on *Velocity* in May, losing a handicap match to The Big Show and a tag against The Basham Brothers ... Main finishing move is the impressive Spanish fly.

## 300 TEDDY HART (6'1", 195, 5, 249) Hart

continues to create controversy everywhere he goes, and even where he doesn't go ... Recently no-showed appearances in JAPW and in Buffalo due to problems at the U.S. border ... Nephew of Bret Hart and grandson of Stu is known for his daredevil high-flying moves ... When Teddy is on his game, he's one of the most exciting young competitors in the world, but he has come to redefine the term "loose cannon" ... Claims to be the "past, present, and future of professional wrestling."

## 301 BOOMER PAYNE (6', 247, 10, 318)

Pittsburgh native has cracked the "500" every year since 1997 ... Won his second APW heavyweight title from Manchild in October 2004, but dropped the belt two months later ... Underwent knee surgery but was back in the ring just 30 days later ... Received the All Pro Wrestling Most Popular Wrestler of 2004 Award and the Comeback of the Year Award ... Takes credit for forcing Mad Mike into retirement in NWA East ... Has scored several wins over Chris Hamrick in recent months ... Finishing maneuver is the dishonorable discharge.

## 302 KIRBY MARCOS (5'5", 152, 5, NL) The

wrestler best known as Mean Marcos has let the cat out of the bag and claims his first name is Kirby ... Not since Cosmo Kramer have we been so surprised ... Best known for being one-half of The Ring Crew Express with Kevin Dunn ... The fans get a kick out of Dunn and Marcos' clueless hair metal fan shtick and impromptu air guitar jams ... Feuded with Special K, The Carnage Crew, and The Olsen Twins ... Finisher is the Unskinny Bop ... Greatest moment of the past year was winning a scramble cage match at ROH's third anniversary card.

## 303 TIM WARCLOUD (6'1", 235, 10, NL)

Warcloud started off 2005 with a two-month tour of England through All Star Promotions ... Teams with Tejas as Tribal Force ... Made his film debut playing himself in the upcoming film *Mil Mascaras Vs. The Aztec Mummy* ... Served as stunt coordinator for the movie and filmed matches against Mascaras and El Hijo Del Santo ... Finishing moves are the tomahawk chop and the Indian deathlock, of course ... Warcloud is a Powhattan and Cherokee Indian ... Trained at the Harley Race Academy.

## 304 JOSE MAXIMO (5'9", 190, 4, 197)

One-half of The Spanish Announce Team with brother Joel ... The brothers recently packed up and moved to Louisville to begin training at the OVW Training School ... Their nonstop, move-a-second style doesn't gel with the current WWE style, and the brothers have struggled in recent months ... Pet move is his skull driver ... The S.A.T. wrestled several WWE dark matches this spring and have appeared on *Velocity* ... Have also competed in ROH, TNA, the ECWA, NYWC, and NWA Wildside.

## 305 APOCALYPSE (6'2", 210, 5, NL) The

man from Parts Unknown competes in the Texas-based Professional Championship Wrestling promotion ... He and partner Tim Storm have held the PCW tag team championship ... Also competes in the Christian Wrestling Federation ... Regardless of his tactics in the ring, he always makes time for the fans after the show ... Has feuded with The Angel and The Saint in battles of Biblical proportions.

## 306 TOMMY WILLIAMS (5'9", 193, 4, NL)

Formerly known as Funky Billy Kim of The X-Foundation, Williams has come into his own since joining the New Japan Inoki Dojo ... His first appearance in Japan was cut short as he suffered a severe elbow injury in the first round of the New Japan Young Lions tournament ... Has vowed to return to Japan as soon as possible ... Took on Kurt Angle as part of the Angle challenge in Hollywood ... Frequently compared to a young Rick Steamboat because of his look and competitive fire.

## 307 KEN DOANE (6'4", 250, 4, NL) One of the

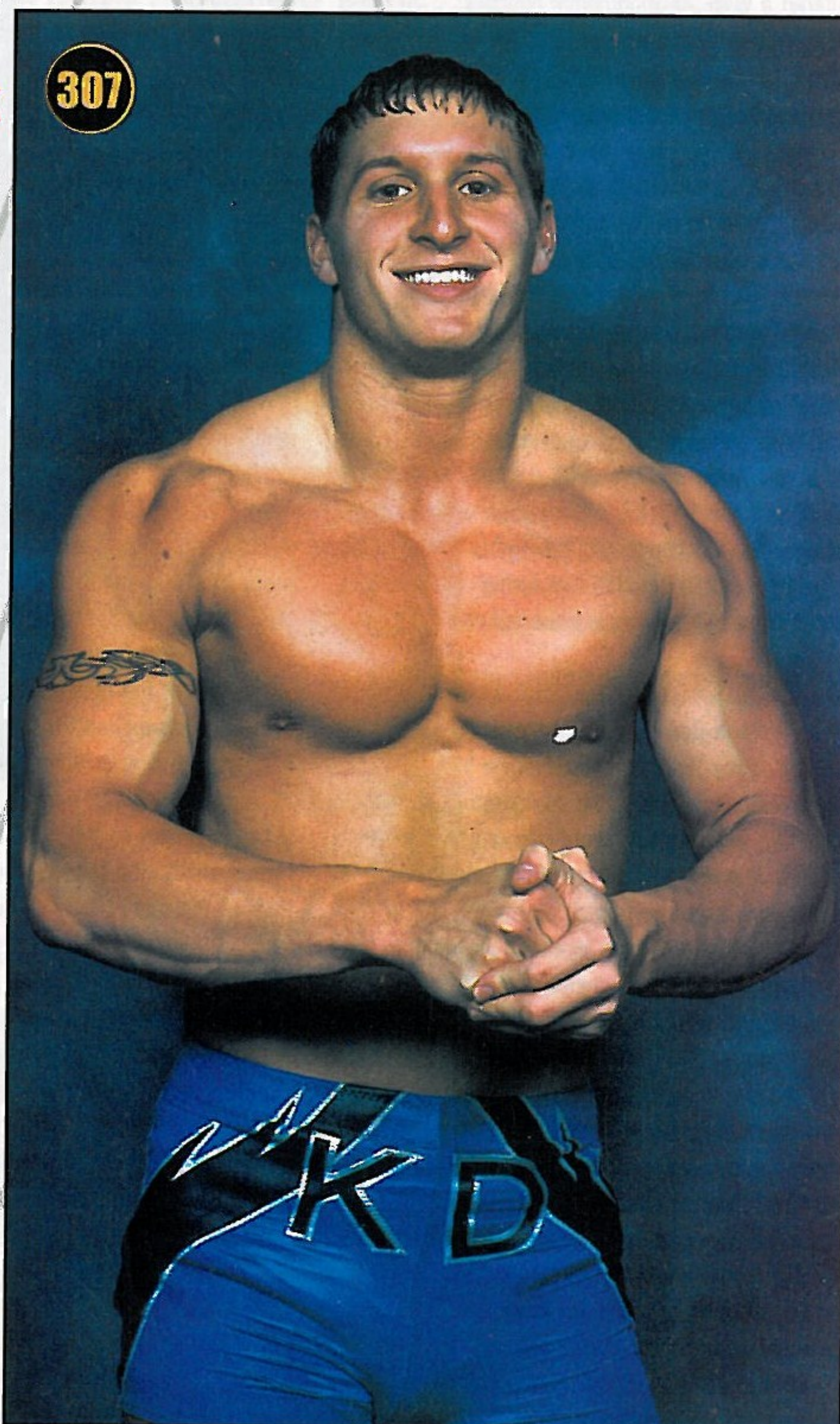
youngest wrestlers that people are talking about down in OVW ... Began wrestling at age 15 and was trained in part by Killer Kowalski ... Beat Deuce Shade for the OVW TV title in June 2005 ... Signed a WWE developmental contract last year immediately after graduating from high school ... Some people say the sky is the limit for the soft-spoken wrestling prodigy ... Feuded with Shade and with M-N-M ... Calls his finisher the Doane-ation.

## 308 FRANK MURDOCH (6'1", 285, 17, 344) This

Gooding, Idaho, native originally trained under "Mad Dog" Buzz Sawyer ... Has a very rough, no-nonsense demeanor ... His objective is simple: Get in the ring, win, drink a beer, and then go home ... He's not all talk, either, as he is a former amateur wrestling champ and a standout in football ... That explains how his wicked arsenal of suplexes and clotheslines easily hurts his opponents ... Calls Pro Wrestling Iron his home ... Has held the APW universal title.

## 309 DA BEAST (6'6", 270, 2, 332)

The powerful former shootfighter signed a WWE developmental contract in June 2005 ... Went to 35-7 overall in his shootfighting career, which isn't too shabby ... Also an experienced



amateur boxer with a 57-26 record ... Has been competing in Ohio Valley Wrestling for the past year ... Briefly teamed with Carlito in OVW and could make a good bodyguard for the reigning I-C champion ... His college basketball team won the NJCAA title in 1999-2000 and he was in the top 20 in the nation in rebounding ... Calls his finishing move "Mr. Toad's magical soup."

## 310 MIKE FOXX (6'3", 255, 5, NL) Known as

"Main Event" ... Was the main member of the International Playaz Club in PCW ... A three-time former PCW heavyweight champion ... Won PCW's first-ever "fight, win, survive" match against Action Jackson ... Scored a big win over Sabu ... Took a sabbatical from the ring but returned at PCW's Genocide 2005 card, attacking Mace Malone with a tire iron in a heinous assault.



**311 STERLING JAMES KEENAN** (6'1", 204, 5, 395) Calls himself "The Present And Future Of Pittsburgh Wrestling" ... Has also had breakout matches in 3PW and the IWC ... Challenged Austin Aries for the Ring of Honor heavyweight title in April 2005 in a match held in Far North Wrestling ... Keenan has also had notable matches against Dennis Gregory and Claudio Castagnoli ... Defended the IWC heavyweight title against C.M. Punk in front of more than 1,000 fans last year.

**312 MARTY WRIGHT** (6'2", 240, 1, NL) *Tough Enough IV* and was eliminated for lying about his age ... Is really about 40 years old, but he's an incredible shape regardless ... Went to OVW where he was known as "Liar" ... Showed a natural flair and was extremely good on promos, so he was offered a WWE developmental contract ... At press time, was just appearing on WWE TV as The Boogey Man ... It seems like a bizarre gimmick, but Wright may just be the man to make it work.

**313 ROB ECKOS** (5'10", 195, 6, 336) Considers himself to be the brains of The Valedictorians, but that's certainly up for debate ... Eckos and partner Billy Bax have held the ECWA tag title for more than 18 months so far ... Managed by the diminutive Carlton P. Hightower ... Has also held the Chaotic Wrestling tag belts with Bax ... Has competed in several WWE dark matches, as well as in a televised loss to Matt Morgan in May 2005 ... Also wrestles for 3PW and the NYWC ... Somehow emerged unscathed from a frightening fall from a 14-foot platform in a wild TLC match last spring ... Has added about 15 pounds of muscle since last year.

**314 JASON RUMBLE** (5'9", 201, 7, 281) This "Boston Bad Boy" still follows the advice his mentor, Tony Rumble, passed on to him before he died ... Bounced back from an injured ACL to regain the NWA junior heavyweight title, starting his third reign ... He defeated Jerrelle Clark and Vance Desmond in a three-way match on October 17 in Winnipeg to win the title ... Wrestles primarily in New England, but he has appeared in TNA as well as in several other NWA affiliates.

**315 DUSTY WOLFE** (5'11", 235, 22, 320) A well-traveled journeyman who has survived a rough career on the road ... Toured all over the world, often working shows at U.S. military bases to entertain the troops ... Also wrestles in Mexico regularly, as well as the Texas independents ... Has held titles in almost every promotion for which he has wrestled ... Uses his tenacious, roughhouse style to wear down opponents ... Still a threat to any budding superstar since he could easily defeat just about anyone if he really tried.

**316 ADAM FIRE-STORM** (5'10", 199, 9, 325) The Auckland, New Zealand, native has added a number of submission holds to his repertoire ... The most effective new move is his Russian deathlock, a side Russian leg sweep turned into a head-and-arm submission lock ... Attends film school when not wrestling and has begun bringing a small camera to the ring to scout future opponents ... Usually, though, he just films opponents after they have been defeated to taunt them ... Now based in Calgary and recently debuted for the Prairie Wrestling Alliance.

**317 QUINN MAGNUM** (6'5", 271, 9, 338) Continues to be a popular attraction in Pittsburgh, West Virginia, and Ohio ... A former NWA-North American champion ... Based out of the NWA-PWX ... Has the distinction of being one of only two men ever to hold every title in NWA-PWX ... Served as part of the "Old Guard" in the war against the Youth Movement that consumed the promotion ... Magnum led the veterans in a winning effort against the upstarts ... Has been locked in a personal feud with Scott Venom since Venom snagged a spot on the PWX championship committee ... Searching for his third title reign in NWA-PWX ... Finisher is the .44 Magnum.

**318 CRU JONES** (6'1", 240, 5, NL) "The All-Star" is wrestling all over the Midwest and has appeared in IWA Mid-South, NWA-Wildside, and dozens of other promotions ... Won the NWA-Revolution heavyweight championship ... Last cracked the "PWI 500" back in 2003 ... Calls his finishing move the monster blitz ... A native of Chicago ... Cru is a natural athlete with a strong work ethic and great power.

**319 BRIAN BLACK** (6'4", 260, 5, NL) Signed a WWE developmental contract in March 2005 ... Currently stationed in Ohio Valley Wrestling ... Trained by Mike Hollow and Killer Kowalski ... Finishing move

is the blackout ... Won a 28-man battle royal to win the Chaotic Wrestling New England championship in April 2004 ... Teamed with Mighty Mini to win the Chaotic tag team title on two occasions.

**320 ANDREW RYKER** (6', 200, 4, NL) ECWA mainstay was impressive in the first round of the 2005 Super 8 Tournament, losing to Alex Shelley ... Trained at Bonebreakers in Maryland ... Ryker is a two-time MEWF cruiserweight champion and 5 Star Wrestling heavyweight champion ... Earned a spot in the Super 8 by scoring wins over Low-Ki and Mike Krue ... Has wrestled a handful of WWE dark matches and appeared in a few WWE backstage vignettes ... Lists his goals as aspiring for respect and being a good son, good friend, and good father to his dogs and other pets ... Finishers include the Ryker rewind and firebird splash.



**321 RICO SUAVE** (5'10", 255, 21, NL) The son of former Conquistador and WWF veteran Jose Estrada ... Had a career-changing year after his mentor, Bronco, convinced him he had to go back and retrain ... Faced Rosario for the Puerto Rican title and then snapped after losing the bout, savagely attacking Rosario ... Perennially underrated star has made it his goal to capture the WWC universal title ... Known for his crisp, fluid execution, as well as his formidable promo skills ... No Gerardo cracks, please.

**322 MICHELLE STARR** (6'2", 275, 18, NL) Canadian veteran is known for his flamboyant tights and effeminate ways ... Teamed with "Loverboy" Johnny Canuck as The Glamour Order of Discipline in Extreme Canadian Championship Wrestling ... Think Billy and Chuck, but with far worse fashion sense ... Got his start in wrestling working ring crew for the WWF in the mid-1980s ... Trained under Billy Anderson in California and then started taking bookings in Mexico ... An old school performer who competes throughout Canada.

**323 ROBIN KNIGHTWING** (5'8", 222, 5, 366) "The Sexy Monkey" made the biggest move of his career, leaving his hometown of Niagara Falls and moving to Louisville to train at the OVW training center ... Part of The All-Knighters along with Joey Knight and Kevin Grace ... The All-Knighters use a stack suplex/superplex finisher they call the Knight rider ... Always clowning around and making the fans (and sometimes his opponents) crack up laughing ... Nearly beat Jonny Puma for the Empire State Wrestling heavyweight title in October 2004 ... Had a brief cameo in the *Dukes of Hazzard* movie ... Has toured Europe on several occasions.

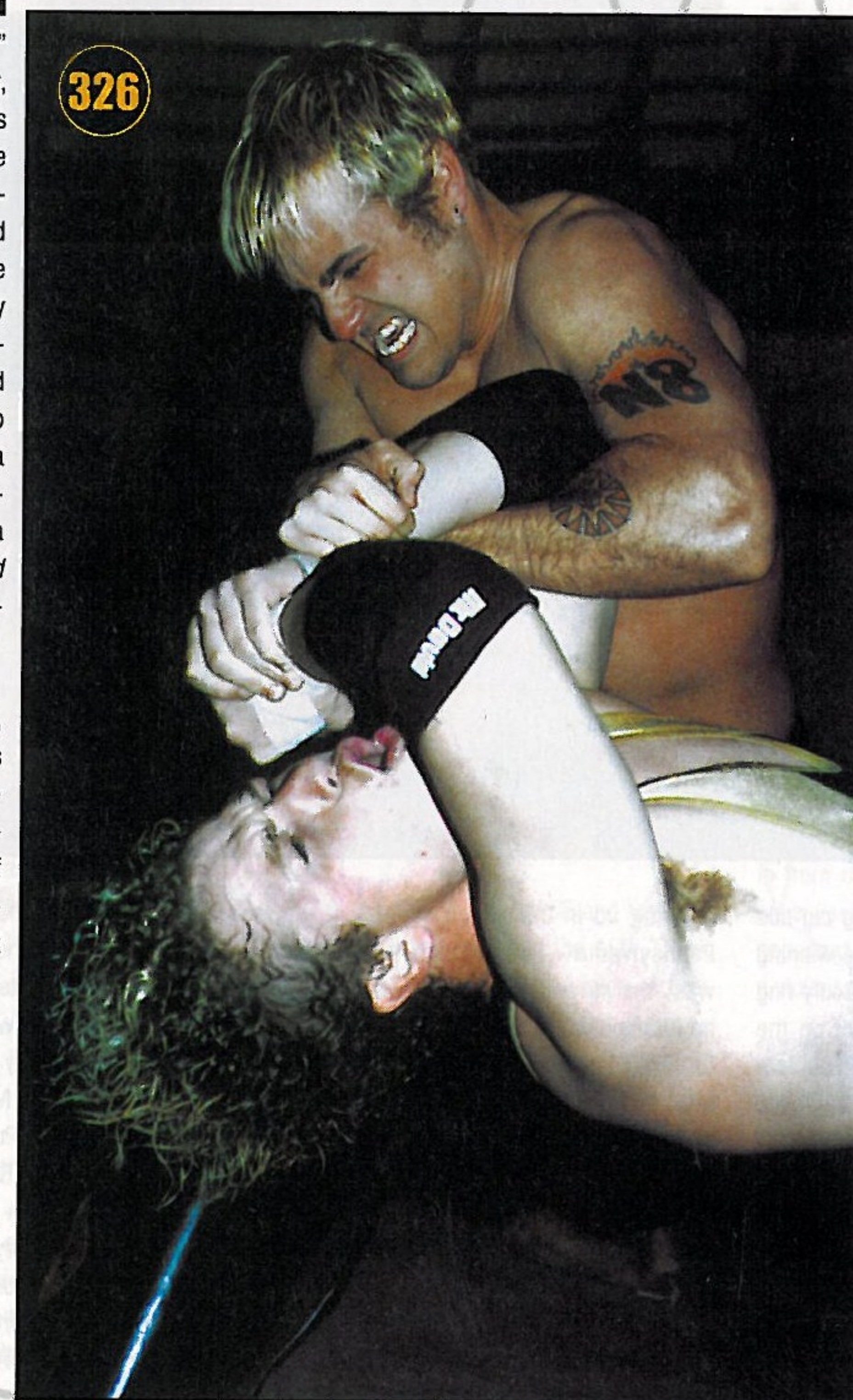
**324 J.J. PEREZ** (5'6", 170, 6, 431) Perez learned to overcome his diminutive size by mastering the technical aspect of the game ... Often targets opponents' knees to take them off their feet and negate height disadvantages ... Trained by Michael Modest and Donovan Morgan ... Has competed throughout California and has wrestled for Osaka Pro Wrestling and Hokuto Pro Wrestling in Japan ... Finisher is the third eclipse ... Beat Tyson Dux in the opening round of the 2005 Super 8 Tournament ... Lost to Puma in the semifinals ... A former APW Internet champion.

**325 DENNIS GREGORY** (6'1", 222, 13, 306) Pennsylvania vet-

eran is on a leave of absence as he is currently serving with the U.S. Air Force Reserves and is stationed in Kuwait ... Has wrestled in memorable matches against Sterling James Keenan, Jimmy Vegas, Dirk Ciglar, and Powerhouse Hughes ... A former PGH Pro heavyweight champion, CWF heavyweight and tag champion, and SCW champion ... Still managed by longtime advisor "Hot Shot" Drew Lozario ... Calls himself an "Independent Legend."

**326 N8 MATTSON** (5'10", 198, 9, NL) Mattson has wrestled in Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and West Virginia ... Made two appearances on NWA-TNA *Xplosion* ... Currently holds the Border City Wrestling tag team title with Danny Daniels ... Trained by Scott D'Amore, "Irish" Mickey Doyle, and "Canadian Destroyer" Doug Chevalier ... Excels on the mat but can also take to the air with the best of them ... Finisher is the M-80 swinging neck bomb.

**327 FRED SAMPSON** (6'2", 250, 3, 390) "The Bonecrusher" has had a busy year, compet-



ing throughout the Northeast and finding time to be one of Kurt Angle's personal security guards for some of the Angle Challenge segments ... He's the guy who guards the Olympic gold medals ... Held the ECWA Mid-Atlantic heavyweight title for two months in late-2004 ... Also held the IWF heavyweight title ... Finisher is the Bonecrusher slam, a running powerslam ... Also works for Chaotic Wrestling, Continental Championship Wrestling, NWS, WXW, SSCW, and ACWA ... Upper body strength belies an impressive vertical leap.

**328 STEVE MACK** (5'9", 275, 8, 315) Feuded with C.J. O'Doyle for five months in 3PW, giving the promotion some of the hardest-hitting matches it has ever seen ... Mack has been teaming with Damian Adams as The Kings of Philly ... They are perennial top contenders for the 3PW tag belts, but always seem to get a raw deal ... Became the first IEW (New Jersey) heavyweight champion ... Formerly a member of Da Hit Squad ... Now teams with Mark Clemson ... Wrestles for 3PW, JAPW, WXW, and several other promotions.

**329 EL NENE** (5'10", 260, 8, NL) Known as "The Puerto Rican Superman," El Nene is a police officer in his out-of-the-ring life ... A former WWC universal champion ... Currently competing in the independent NWS, in which he is the top contender to the heavyweight title ... Once faced—and beat—five wrestlers at the same time ... Considered to be the strongest indy wrestler in Puerto Rico.

**330 CHASYN RANCE** (5'9", 182, 12, 392) Rance spent all of last summer competing in Stampede Wrestling alongside the ever-controversial Teddy Hart ... Bills himself as the last student of The Hart Foundation and the last person to win a shootfight at the famous Hart family Dungeon before the house was sold ... Beat Ashe Samuels in the first wrestling match to be held inside an eight-sided ring in Calgary ... Currently holds a half-dozen singles championships and competes from New Jersey to Florida and throughout the Midwest ... Signature move is the sensational spike, a variation of the emerald erosion and his incredible Chasyn driver (a piledriver through the ropes) ... Occasionally accompanied by "So Cal Val" Valerie Wyndham.



**331 CLAUDIO CASTAGNOLI** (6'4", 238, 4, NL) Native of Lucerne, Switzerland, has relocated to the U.S. and competes for CHIKARA, CZW, IWA Mid-South, and ROH ... Won the 32-team Tag World Grand Prix with partner Arik Cannon, thanks to help from Chris Hero ... Master of the European uppercut, Castagnoli claims to know more than a dozen variations of that basic strike ... Snobby aristocrat often wrestles while wearing his necktie ... A former WXW (Germany) heavyweight champion ... Finishes opponents with his cross-arm pyramid bomb.

**332 DANNY DORING** (5'11", 212, 6, 294) "The Danaconda" is hoping to work his way up through the WWE developmental system and make a return to the national stage ... Was involved a brief vignette at One Night Stand, but due to technical difficulties, we might never know what Doring said ... Has been competing all over the indy circuit, including a solid run as NWA Upstate heavyweight champion ... Graduated from the ECW House of Hardcore, at which he was trained by Perry Saturn and Tazz.

**333 SEDRICK STRONG** (6'2", 200, 4, 321) Brother and tag team partner of Roderick Strong ... Teams with Roderick in several Florida independents ... Has held several Florida area titles, including the IPW tag team, NWA Florida X division, and the Christian Wrestling Federation cruiserweight titles ... Quietly impressive, but could use more exposure in promotions outside Florida ... Competed in the 2003 Super 8 Tournament and has experience in TNA ... Uses the super diamond dust as his finisher.

**334 JOEY KNIGHT** (5'8", 201, 5, 372) Part of The All-Knights with Robin Knightwing and Kevin Grace ... Moved to Louisville to train at the OVW school ... Held the Neo Spirit Pro Wrestling tag title with Knightwing, with Knight scoring the title-winning pinfall over Team Canada's Eric Young ... Goofy ring entrances and pantomimed swimming act on the turnbuckles are classic Joey ... Known as "The Joe-verine" ... Has teamed with Romeo Roselli, Deuce Shade, Steve Lewington, and Elijah Burke in OVW ... Has a cameo in the *Dukes Of Hazzard* movie.

**335 LADIES' CHOICE** (6', 220, 6, NL) Ladies' Choice will be the first man to tell you how nice it is to get comfy on the love seat with a glass of Courvoisier and a fine honey by your side ... Competes in Pro Wrestling Canada, but claims to

hail from the Sunset Strip in California ... Claims he has properties on every continent ... Emulates Ric Flair from the ornate ring robes to the stylin' and profilin' ... May seem more concerned with the women at ringside than his opponent, but it's a bad idea to take him lightly.

**336 RORY FOX** (5'10", 220, 6, 434) Got his first national exposure by being featured in a MTV special on aspiring wrestlers ... Trained by Les Thatcher ... Fox has held the Heartland heavyweight, tag team, cruiserweight, and TV championships ... Fox has also competed in WWE, OVW, WCW, and several other indy promotions ... Has feuded with Shark Boy, Chad Collyer, Nigel McGuinness, and Cody Hawk ... Finishers are the full-nelson slam and his Fox trap, an inverted stump puller ... Lost to Petey Williams in the opening round of the 2005 Super 8 Tournament ... Uses a mat-based style that best utilizes his low center of gravity.

**337 VIK DALISHUS** (6'1", 220, 4, NL) World of Hurt competitor claims he got tough by

18 months now ... Frequently appears in preliminary matches for both Raw and Smackdown ... Bax seems to be the highly suggestible type, often falling into lockstep with whatever hare-brained scheme Eckos and manager Carlton P. Hightower devise ... After each successful title defense, he and Eckos jubilantly move the tassels on their mortar boards from one side to the other, signifying another test passed ... Has feuded with Fred Sampson, The O.C. Boyz, and The Logan Brothers.

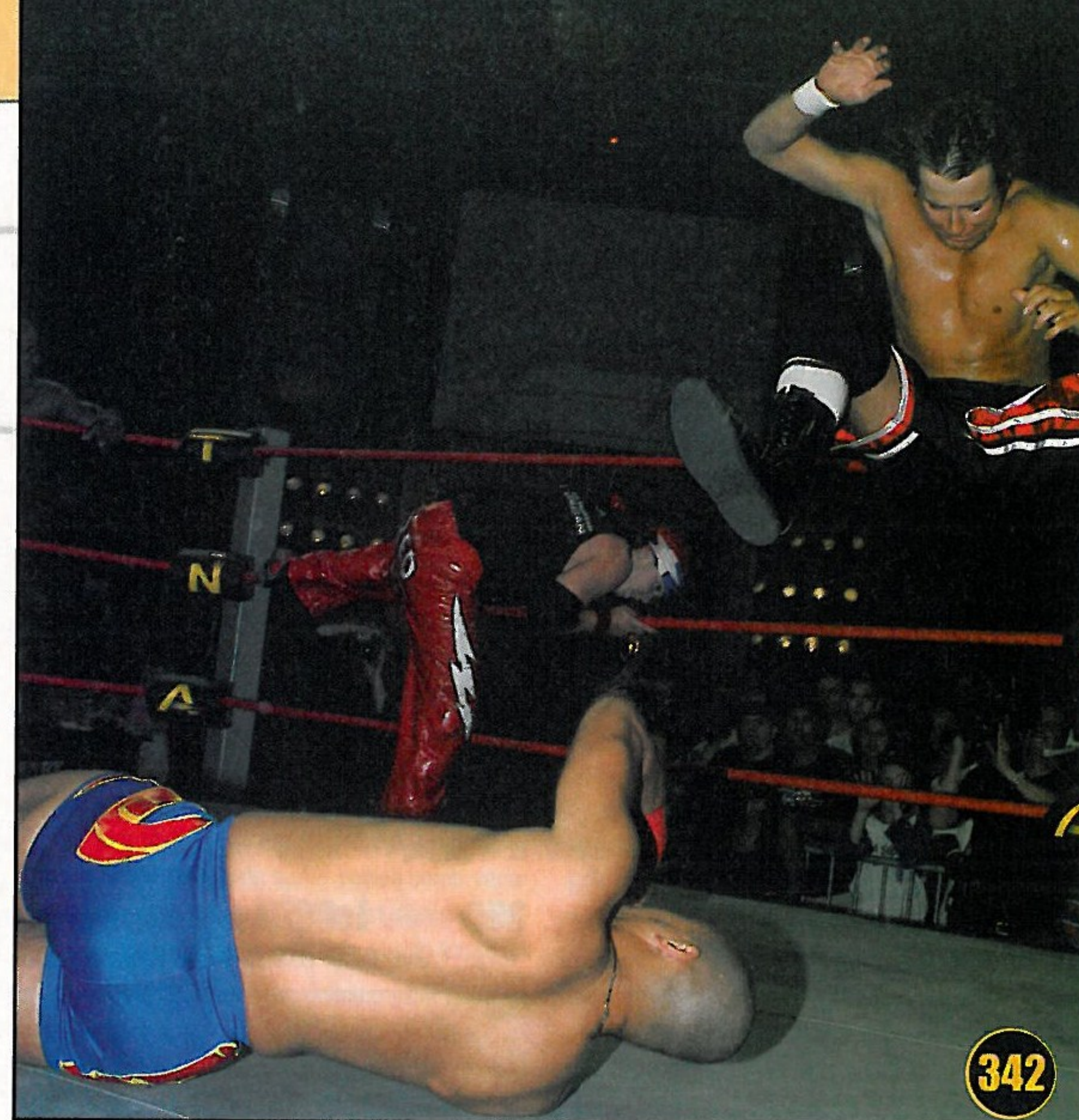
**339 LIGHTNING** (6'4", 240, 5, NL) The larger member of Thunder and Lightning, the most dominant tag team in Puerto Rico ... Lightning is a former WWC universal champion, but he has been in something of a holding pattern ever since Thunder went down with an injury back in January ... Thunder and Lightning have held the IWA tag title three times over the past year and are 10-time WWC tag champions ... The team has a great look and the sort of chemistry that is extremely rare in stateside tag teams these days.



growing up in the Amish country of Intercourse, Pennsylvania ... Also toughened up because he was "the seventh son of a seventh son," meaning he had cousins and brothers waiting in line to beat on him ... All those beatings haven't humbled him a bit though ... "Guys, do me a favor—keep your women on a leash until after my match," reads his warning on his personal Web site ... Has competed in OVW over the past two years and previously competed in World of Hurt Wrestling.

**338 BILLY BAX** (5'10", 205, 5, 422) The powerhouse of The Valedictorians ... Has held the ECWA tag title with Rob Eckos for more than

**340 VITO THOMASELLI** (5'10", 185, 4, 384) "Airborne" possesses an encyclopedic knowledge of amateur wrestling holds and maneuvers ... Often teams with brother Sal as The Iron Saints, but has previously had success teaming with Low-Ki, Jay Jensen, Eric Marks, and Brandon Bishop ... Mainly wrestles for Pro Wrestling Iron in California, but also competes in IWA Mid-South, Pro Wrestling Guerrilla, and the WWA in Chicago ... McHenry, Illinois, native was trained by Mike Modest, Donovan Morgan, and Rick Thompson ... Finishers include the Sicilian driver, psycho driver, and the Molotov piledriver ... Has several different valets (Apryl, Jade, and Crystal) depending on where he is wrestling at the time.



**341 SCOTTY CHARISMA** (6', 205, 4, NL) The reigning ECWA heavyweight champion won the NBI Natural Bodybuilding Contest in March 2005 ... Won the ECWA title in a wild five-way match against John Walters, Xavier, Mike Krueh, and Andrew Ryker ... A fantastic physical specimen with a lean, chiseled look and impressive stamina ... Has successfully defended the belt against Kodiak Bear and Arch Kincaid ... Appeared on *Smackdown* as part of the Kurt Angle challenge, but didn't fare particularly well that night ... Also competes for Chaotic Wrestling, CCW, ECPW, NWA Universal, and NWA Oklahoma.

**342 ZACH GOWEN** (5'11", 155, 3, 228) The 2003 *PWI* Rookie of the Year may have let his early success in WWE go to his head ... Lost a leg to cancer as a young boy ... His ability to compete on one leg, and to execute dropkicks and his split-legged moonsault is simply remarkable ... Has been competing on the indy circuit, often against The Insane Clown Posse ... Recently returned to TNA (in which he previously competed as Tenacious Z) and hopes to make an impact in the X division ... Will probably always have detractors who say he's nothing more than a sideshow attraction.

**343 NASDAQ** (6', 252, 6, NL) One-half of The Market Crashers with Dow Jones ... The Market Crashers have been a dominant force on the Florida independent scene, as well as in Puerto Rico ... Currently holds the MXPW, CCW, and Sunray Pro Wrestling tag titles ... The Market Crashers have had memorable feuds with The Shane Twins, The Heavenly

Bodies, The Natural Disasters, The Bushwhackers, and Thunder and Lightning ... NASDAQ recently tried his hand as a singles competitor, beating Ryan O'Reilly for the MXPW TV title ... The team recently invaded NWA Florida ... They call their finisher the black Monday.

**344 HANGMAN HUGHES** (6'6", 280, 3, NL) Called "Hangman" for his penchant for using a rope to try to choke the life out of his opponents ... The massive Canadian regularly competes in Puerto Rico's IWA, in which he has become a destructive juggernaut ... Won the IWA hardcore title, but lost it to the chair-swinging Ricky Banderas ... Feuded with Shane over the IWA heavyweight title, but was unable to score a decisive win over his fellow Canadian ... A dangerous man who should be able to beat most opponents on sheer size alone, without having to resort to underhanded tactics ... He's either a sadist or lazy.

**345 MACE** (6', 255, 7, NL) MACE and tag team partner ACE (Larry Green) defended the ACW TX tag title against Skandor Akbar's latest version of Devastation Inc., Blake the Brawler and Robert Evans ... Defeated two-time NWA-Texas light heavyweight champion Cyclone ... Formed The Re-Gex with Tejas and accepted Seth Shai as a new member ... Teamed with Shai to win the UWF tag belts ... Competes throughout Texas and the Southwest ... Has faced "Dr. Death" Steve Williams, Spanky, and Rodney Mack ... Managed by Chris Idol in the CWF.

**346 AXL ROTTEN** (6'2", 302, 18, NL) The hardcore veteran has ventured out of his home base

of IWA Mid-South to make a bunch of WWE appearances over the past few months ... Usually teams with Mahoney ... Feud with his brother, Ian, was voted 1995's hottest by *PWI* readers ... Main finisher is the S.S.T., or the severe skull trauma ... Can deliver some great, explosive offense, but tends to get winded after just a few minutes, so tag team wrestling is probably the way to go for him at this stage of his career.

**347 DOW JONES** (6'3", 335, 6, NL) A bull investment if independent tag teams are your main investment portfolio ... The larger, more powerful member of The Market Crashers ... The Crashers recently beat The Vandalz to become two-time Sunray Pro Wrestling tag champions ... They have dominated that promotion for the past two years, ever since they created their heel faction, The Firm ... Experienced tag team has faced some of the best tandems in Puerto Rico, as well as on the indy circuit ... Beat Phi Delta Slam for the Coastal Championship Wrestling tag team belts in 2004 ... They call their finisher the black Monday.

**348 ROBBIE DAWBER** (6'1", 210, 7, NL) Popular Ohio Valley Wrestling competitor has shown some flashes of brilliance as one of the promotion's young lions ... Suffered several losses in opening matches, but has been learning from his mistakes and looks to be poised for a breakthrough in the near future ... He might just live up to his nickname as "The New Thing" ... Recently changed his image and sheared off his long hair ... Seems to be a natural on the mike.

**349 BRUCE STEELE** (6'4", 260, 6, 383) Steele is a member of the hated 911 Incorporated in NWA-Florida, along with Rod Steel, Buck Quartermain, and manager "Hardcore Giant" Ron Niemi ... The current NWA-Florida heavyweight champion, Steele won the strap in a three-way dance, beating Steve Madison and Roderick Strong ... Successfully defended the NWA-Florida title against Jerry Lawler in front of more than 3,000 fans ... Has appeared on several editions of NWA-TNA *Impact* and once appeared on *Smackdown* ... Beat James Hendrix in a violent cage match at Rage in the Cage 2005.

**350 SAL THOMASELLI** (5'9", 190, 2, 403) The other half of The Iron Saints, in which he teams with brother Vito ... They are currently feuding with another brother, Brandon, in IWA Mid-South ... Currently holds the IWA Mid-South tag title with Vito ... The duo also wrestle in Pro Wrestling Iron ... Fares much better in tag matches than he does in singles competition ... Named Supreme Pro Wrestling's 2002 Rookie of the Year ... As talented as his brother in the ring, but could use some more seasoning.



**351 HENTAI** (5'5", 170, 7, 370) Changed his name from Super Hentai to simply HENTAI after feigning a retirement, only to align with the evil Sebastian Dark ... This came after a violent feud with Dark in which HENTAI was blinded with an alcohol mixture ... Since becoming a heel, HENTAI has attacked Mick Foley and IWC promoter Norm Connors ... Teamed with Dark to beat Bobby Eaton and Dennis Condrey for the IWC tag title ... Regarded as the best Super Indy champion in IWC history ... Once considered a mentor and idol, HENTAI now finds himself shunned in the IWC locker room.

**352 BAMM BAMM PENDERS** (6'1", 235, 2, NL) OVW's resident frat boy has been all about drinking, partying, and peeping into sorority house windows ... Adopted the "Bamm Bamm" nickname as a tribute to Terry Gordy, though he's also a fan of Bam Bam Bigelow ... Claims to hold the Kappa Sigma Kegstand record at 66 seconds ... Transferred to the University of Louisville for a chance to train at the OVW training school.

**353 K.C. THUNDER** (6', 265, 16, 373) The crafty veteran competes in Iron Ring Wrestling, Palmetto Pride Wrestling, and throughout the Southeast ... Currently managed by the lovely Dawn Rene ... Uses the figure-four leglock to win his matches ... Currently feuding with Dave Renegade in Palmetto Pride ... Adopted the nickname "The Tennessee Stud" after beating Ron Fuller in 2003 ... Trained by master wrestling technician Nelson Royal.

**354 E.C. NEGRO** (6'3", 230, 3, 414) E.C. Negro continues to improve and climb higher in the ratings as a singles competitor after being a tag team specialist ... Beat Slyck Wagner Brown for the JCW heavyweight title and feuded with Jay Lethal in the AWA ... Beat Boogalou for the WXW TV title ... Fought Homicide to a draw, which has to be considered a moral victory ... Signature moves include the brolic buffalo legdrop, the cobra clutch bomb, and the exploder suplex ... Wrestled Chris Candido at ECW Arena this year, a personal thrill ... Also made his debut in ROH ... Managed by K.C. Blade, his former tag team partner.



**355 MIKE TOBIN** (6', 185, 6, NL) The cocky Tobin is one-third of The Chick Magnets with Mozart Fontaine and Brian Soscia in the East Coast Wrestling Association ... That deceptively named team is managed by Carlton P. Hightower ... The trio is known for flirting with the ladies at ringside, and getting offended when the women reject them in repulsion ... To be fair, Tobin probably has the best build of the three ... A good technical wrestler with strong aerial skills, Tobin just prefers to take shortcuts ... The Chick Magnets have feuded with The Logan Brothers and The O.C. Boyz.

**356 AARON IDOL** (6', 213, 4, NL) Idol has been making a name for himself on the West Coast and north of the border ... Won the 2005 ECCW Pacific Cup tournament, scoring wins over Memphis Raines, J.J. Perez, Puma, and American Dragon ... Won the TRW cruiserweight title in November 2004 ... Also scored a win over Jack Evans last summer ... Frequently teams with "Sweet Daddy" Robin Logan ... He and Logan have been feuding with Models Inc. over the ECCW tag belts ... Like all good Canadians, considered the sharpshooter to be one of his favorite finishers, along with the enzuigiri and top rope backdrop.

**357 ALYX WINTERS** (5'11", 226, 5, NL) "The Cold" beat Ray Idol to win the Championship Wrestling national title in January 2005 ... Has recently begun feuding with Dr. Tom Prichard, the man who beat him for that belt in April ... Was trained by E.Z. Money for his pro debut ... Faced Money in his very first match ... Usually wrestles in northeast Tennessee and West Virginia ... Occasionally teams with Rick Morton ... Likes to put opponents away with his standing shooting star press.

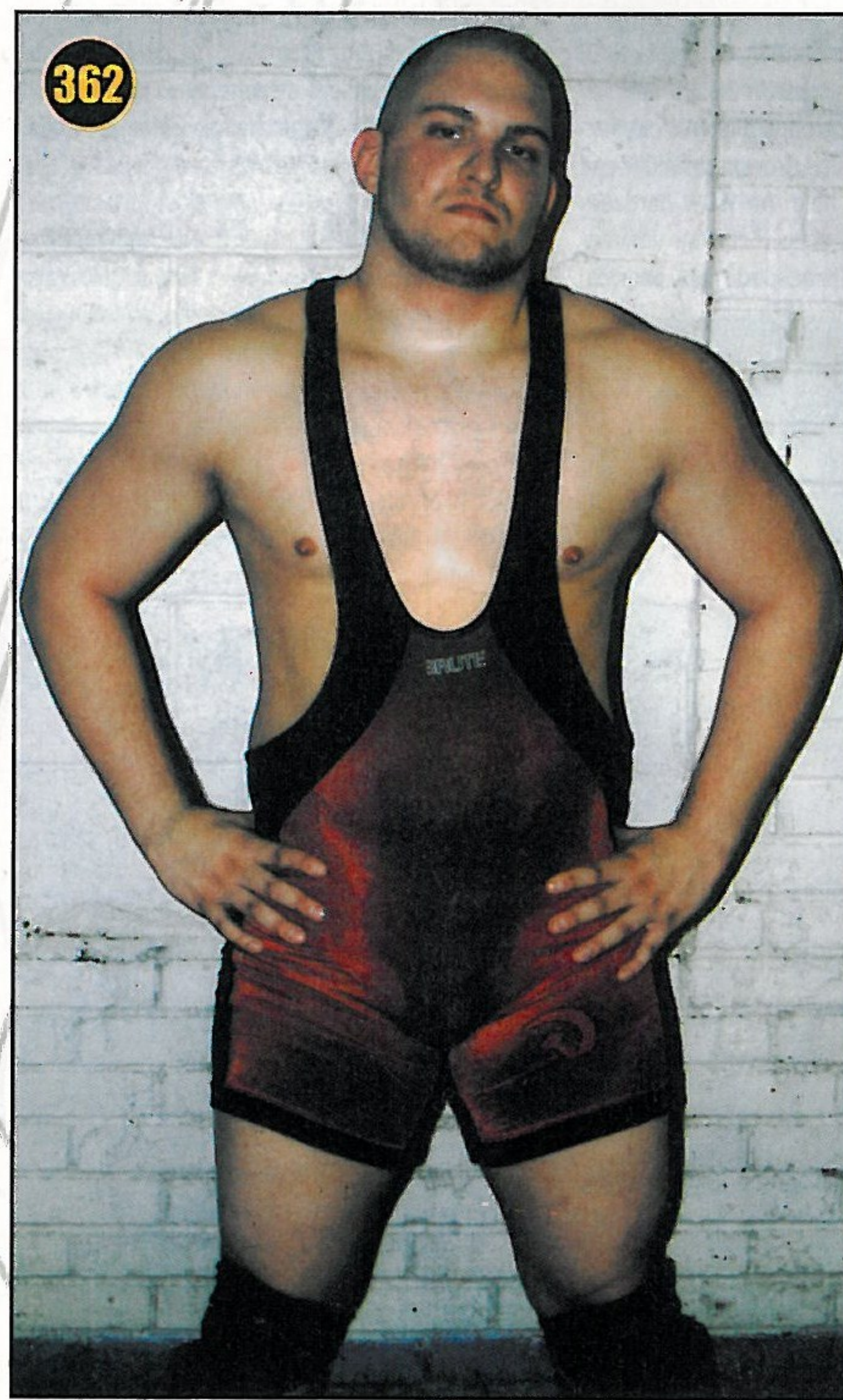
**358 MARC ASH** (6'1", 220, 16, 337) Veteran competitor has worked all over the country and faced everyone from Ivan Koloff to Viscera ... Based out of the Carolinas, Ash has held the ICW heavyweight title 10 times ... Recently underwent surgery for a bulging disc ... Released a CD called *Ashkicker*, featuring the single "Wrestling's My Game" ... Maybe he should hook up with Kenny Casanova for a duet ... Trained by Chief Jay Eagle and Nelson Royal.

**359 LASH LeROUX** (5'10", 246, 7, 330) The "Ragin' Cajun" is still collecting wins in the ring when he's not busy creating artwork for *The Wrestler* and other publications ... Made the cut at a WCW Power Plant tryout session and enrolled in the training school ... Debuted in WCW in February 1999 ... Was initially picked up by WWE when it bought WCW, but was released in 2002 ... Since then, has been competing in several promotions throughout the South and has appeared in NWA-TNA ... An exciting competitor, known for getting so fired up that he starts break-dancing in the ring ... One of the most underrated competitors of the past five years.

**360 ROCKIN' REBEL** (6', 245, 17, NL) Rock 'n' roll will never die, and neither will the Rockin' Rebel ... 17-year veteran has been a fixture in 3PW, where he teamed with Greg Matthews as Blackball'd and won the tag belts ... Trained by The Rock 'n' Roll Express but wrestles a much more violent style than the Express ever did ... Also competes for many promotions in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Maryland ... Ring of Honor, Far North Wrestling, and Combat Zone Wrestling would be the most prominent ... Finisher is the legdrop, but he has also been known to throw fireballs and blast opponents with chairs ... Has had memorable feuds with Zandig and Ruckus.

**361 JOHN RAMBO** (6'4", 260, 17, 365) The veteran mainstay of NWL and House of Pain Wrestling has been feuding with Samu since the Headshrinker turned against him and ended their long-running team ... Their feud has included hardcore matches, barbed wire matches, and weapons matches, so there's obviously some bad blood ... Trained by Afa the Wild Samoan and Rocky Johnson ... Signature moves include his bunker buster (a high legdrop between his opponent's legs) and M.O.A.B. flying sidekick off the top rope.

**362 NIKITA ALLANOV** (6'1", 240, 7, 381) "The Soviet Shooter" is immensely proud of his clean lifestyle and has cut his body fat to 11 percent ... Boasts a bench-press of more than 300 pounds ... Also known as "The Soviet Suplex Machine" ... Has wrestled throughout Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and West Virginia ... Part of the Youth Movement in NWA Pro Wrestling Express and The Axis of Evil in the Eastern Wrestling Alliance ... Finisher is the Spectratz bomb power bomb variation, usually set up by a double-chest stomp or fish-hook ... A rugged shooter with a promising future.



**363 JAPANESE POOL BOY** (6'1", 190, 6, 377) One of the most popular mainstays of the ECWA, Pool Boy is more noted for his unique ring entrances than anything he does once the bell rings ... Came out dressed as Robin during the tag team summit at the 2005 Super 8 Tournament, at which he teamed with the 380-pound Mega ... That's right, Fat Man and Robin ... Recently called in his cousins The Mexican Pool Boy and The Russian Pool Boy to assist in his feud with The Chick Magnets ... In Dublin, The Irish Pool Boy sits by the phone waiting for a call ... Actually scored the biggest singles win of his career by beating Mike Krueh ... Also competes in Continental Championship Wrestling.

**364 ANDY BAKER** (6'4", 235, 5, NL) Native of Liverpool, England, has been busy shuttling between Ohio Valley Wrestling and the United Kingdom Wrestling Alliance ... Previously known as Rage, Baker held the UKWA tag team title with his partner, Domino ... Calls his finishing move the silencer ... Combines his native British style of submission wrestling and measured pacing with what he has learned at the OVW Training School, which has made him an extremely well-rounded wrestler despite having been in the ring for just five years.

**365 DROPKICK MURPHY** (6'4", 215, 4, 389) The self-proclaimed "Canadian Charisma Machine" is the current NWA Canadian junior heavyweight champion, having won the belt from Disco Fury ... Was the first-ever Vancouver Island Pacific Cup champion, beating Aaron Idol and Scotty Mac in the same night ... Regularly competes throughout the Pacific Northwest ... Lost to the original Doink the Clown (Matt Borne) in a match billed as Canada vs. the U.S. ... Claims to be "cooler than you."

**366 GREG MATTHEWS** (6'2", 235, 3, NL) This former *Tough Enough*

competitor is now teaming with veteran tough guy Rockin' Rebel as Blackball'd in Northeast independents ... Won the 3PW tag team belts on May 21 ... Wrestled for CZW, World-1, and ROH just to name a few outlets for his anger ... He and Rebel make a great team, as his power complements Rebel's brawling style very well ... Further proof of that statement: The duo easily won a handicap match against Cheech, Cloudy, and Mike Brown in Pro Wrestling Unplugged in February 2005 ... Slowly gaining the respect of fans and wrestlers alike.

**367 DERRICK NEIKIRK** (6'4", 245, 4, NL) Originally trained by Les Thatcher in the Heartland Wrestling Association ... Held the HWA tag title with Cody Hawk before leaving for the West Coast ... Has wrestled mainly in Ultimate Pro Wrestling and Impact Zone Wrestling for the last few years while pursuing a career in acting and modeling ... Has appeared in *Muscle Mag* and *Muscle & Fitness* magazines ... Signed to a WWE developmental deal in February 2005.

**368 TIM FLOWERS** (6', 245, 27, NL) Veteran competitor won the IWC title in a six-man steel cage match and has feuded with The Honky Tonk Man over that championship for most of 2005 ... Teamed with Avalanche to win the ICW tag team title ... Wrestles throughout Washington, Oregon, and British Columbia ... Nicknamed "The Streetfighter" because of his love of hardcore matches ... Finisher is the old-fashioned piledriver ... Managed by Mike Falcone ... First ranked in the 1994 "PWI 500" at 294.

**369 BRYAN LOGAN** (6', 205, 2, NL) Debuted with his brother, Matt, in the ECWA in early-2005 as part of a talent exchange with Chaotic Wrestling ... Trained by Mike Hollow and Jim McCarthy ... Took on Ace Darling as a mentor, which proved to be a good learning opportunity ... The Logan Brothers won the tag team summit the night of the 2005 Super 8 Tournament to earn an immediate title shot against The Valedictorians ... Though they came close to taking the belts, The Valedictorians emerged victorious ... Both brothers are surprisingly well-traveled, competing in nearly a dozen Northeastern promotions.

**370 APOLLO KAHN** (5'10", 215, 3, 415) Known as "The Man With The Golden Smile" ... Khan is one of the most fearsome competitors in California's Pro Wrestling IRON ... Believes most of today's wrestlers are lazy ... "Ain't nobody ever gave me a damn thing," he says. "I had to take whatever I needed by force" ... That pretty much sums up Kahn's in-ring philosophy ... Schooled in submission-style grappling and can also come off the top rope, making him a dangerous competitor.



**371 MACE MENDOZA** (5'8", 200, 7, 369) He and Buff-E form The Christopher Street Connection ... They are two of the most bizarre, entertaining wrestlers in wrestling today ... For example: In November 2004, Mace and Buff-E were scheduled to marry on a USA Pro show. At the wedding, the best man, Striker, admitted they had an affair. Then Mace admitted that his maid of honor, Dana Dameson, was pregnant with his child. After a big fight, The CSC made up with a kiss ... *Awwwwwww* ... Later that night, they won the tag title, which had to be better than exchanging rings ... They are the total wrestling package—complete with a cute, pink bow.

**372 DELIRIOUS** (6', 192, 4, 376) This bizarre masked competitor can leave most fans scratching their heads in disbelief ... Has held championship gold in IWA Mid-South, but is best known for his occasional appearances in TNA ... Very spastic and almost reptilian in his movements ... Will sometimes snatch bugs out of the air and eat them ... Combines strong mat wrestling skills with wild high-flying moves ... Favorite moves include the stem cell research and the panic attack.

**373 DRU ONYX** (6'2", 325, 6, NL) The reigning NWA British Commonwealth and Quebec heavy-

weight champion ... Style is a combination of suplexes, intense brawling, and submission wrestling ... Has impressive agility for a man his size, routinely stunning opponents with enzuigiris, dropkicks, and even planchas to the arena floor ... Won the United Kingdom heavyweight title and defended that championship in England and Ireland ... Recorded a rap CD entitled *Sinebriated* under his hip-hop moniker, R-Kade ... Actually opened for Ice-T and The Notorious B.I.G. in Montreal ... Uses a spear as his finisher ... Has also competed as Son of Abdullah.

**374 HALLOWICKED** (6'1", 192, 3, 457) One of the top graduates from the CHIKARA Wrestle Factory, the man with the black and green Jack o' Lantern mask won the 2002 Young Lions Cup and the 2003 Tag World Grand Prix ... Currently teaming with Ultramantis Black as The Dark Breed ... Has wrestled in Mexico, Canada, and Europe in the past year ... Has also appeared in CZW, IWA Mid-South, and other promotions across the U.S. ... The master of the super fisherman buster ... Signature hold is the monster mash, an octopus hold turned into a sunset flip.

**375 DEVON STORM** (6'2", 232, 12, 349) This veteran now plies his trade in the New Jersey area, where he lives, for groups like NWA Cyber-space ... Formerly known as Crowbar in WCW and Tempest in TNA ... Has held the WCW hardcore and ECWA tag title ... A solid technical wrestler who can take to the air if needed ... A physical

therapist by day ... Might best be remembered in the Northeast for teaming with Ace Darling to win several regional tag titles.

**376 MATT LOGAN** (6', 205, 2, NL) Almost exclusively teams with his brother, Bryan, as The Logan Brothers ... Joined the ECWA through a talent swap program with Chaotic Wrestling ... The brothers use quick tags, fluid chain wrestling, and old-fashioned tag team strategy to get the best of bigger, more experienced teams ... Won the 2005 tag team summit, last eliminating The Chick Magnets, to earn a shot at the ECWA tag title, but lost to champions The Valedictorians ... The Logans have won tag titles in Chaotic Wrestling, New England Championship Wrestling, PWF-NE, and NEWA.

**377 T. RANTULA** (6'7", 350, 13, 343) The enormous brawler is making his 12th consecutive appearance in the "PWI 500" ... Held the Far North Wrestling heavyweight title for four years until he lost the belt to Seth James in January 2005 ... Known as one of the most popular stars in the Pittsburgh area ... Teamed with The Patriot to beat James and Brian O. ... One of the most intimidating wrestlers anywhere ... Had a bloody feud with New Jack last year ... Has previously appeared in WWE and WCW.

**378 LOTUS** (5'10", 170, 3, NL) Native of New Carlisle, Ohio, competes mainly in the Ohio Valley area for groups such as Heartland Wrestling Association, Buckeye Pro Wrestling, and IWA Mid-South ... Teams with his brother, Crazy J, who is four inches shorter ... Together, they have held both the HWA and BPW tag team titles ... High-flying brothers hold a victory over the team of Matt Sydal and Delirious ... Recently added a shooting star legdrop to his ever-expanding arsenal.

**379 GLEN OSBOURNE** (6'1", 260, 4, 350) This powerful veteran still wrestles for independents in Pennsylvania and the surrounding area ... His size and occasional use of face paint is reminiscent of The Road Warriors ... Has slowed down his schedule considerably in recent years ... Wrestles primarily for the WWWA, in which he has been U.S. champion ... A power merchant who also utilizes a surprisingly good dropkick.

**380 MAHONEY** (6'2", 260, 12, 358) This "chair-swinging freak" is getting a new lease on life, thanks to the interest in all things ECW ... One of wrestling's premier brawlers, Mahoney is willing to compete in any type of match out there ... Has made several WWE appearances, but his past difficulties with the Maryland State Athletic Commission continue to haunt him ... Regularly teams with Axl Rotten ... A better chain-wrestler than you might think ... A throwback wrestler who just wants to have fun and bash some skulls.

**381 BUFF-E** (5'10", 220, 7, 368) The yin to Mace's yang in The Christopher Street Connection ... A tag team specialist who has held several tag titles, including those in APR, IWW, LIWF, and USA Pro ... A versatile wrestler who can brawl with the biggest bullies and chain wrestle with the technical wizards ... Despite his technical acumen, he is one of the true masters of comedy wrestling ... Often kisses male audience members as he makes his way to the ring ... Has held several regional tag titles with Mace.

**382 CONRAD KENNEDY III** (6'1", 215, 5, 491) CK3 hails from the "mean streets of Ottawa Hills, Ohio" ... Just how mean are those streets? So mean that Kennedy says he frequently gets into fights out on the local golf courses ... Trained by Rip Malibu and competes all over Michigan and Ohio ... Currently feuding with Brad Martin in Border City Wrestling ... His spoiled rich boy promos drive the fans crazy ... Insists on being announced as "The Symbol Of Excellence" ... A former MWF Intercontinental champion ... CK3 usually ends his matches with the chump change neckbreaker or the money clip inverted leglock.

**383 DIABOLICO** (5'8", 220, 12, NL) Another Puerto Rican wrestler who made headlines for jumping from one promotion to its rival ... Diabolico returned to the IWA after a two-year stint in the WWF as a mysterious masked ninja who appeared from nowhere and attacked various wrestlers ... Uses an impressive frog splash as his finishing move ... Held the tag team title

in WWF ... Extremely fast on his feet and very adept at executing a stick-and-move offense.

**384 MR. OOH LA LA** (5'10", 230, 17, 397) Oh, the humanity! A *bald* Ooh La La? ... The Inspector Clouseau-esque Frenchman with an affinity for lavender lost to Johnny Maxx and had his head shaved bald as the result of a prematch stipulation in November 2004 ... As embarrassing as that was, it wasn't nearly as bad as when he lost to Chase Del Monte and had to don a dress and serve as Del Monte's valet for an evening ... Ooh La La should really stop signing up for specialty matches ... Served as the referee in ECWA's "Super Ate" concession stand match between the gargantuan Mega and Kodiak Bear ... Wrestled George "The Animal" Steele and The Patriot in Continental Championship Wrestling.

**385 QUINSON VALENTINO** (6'3", 245, 6, NL) Valentino is a gifted promo man who has made a handful of WWE appearances ... His look can be called a cross between a vampiric Christopher Dan-iels and a pirate ... An impressive talent on the Canadian independent circuit ... Won the AWWL (Michigan) TV title and is a leader in Jason Jerry's Empire in NWA Wisconsin ... Participated in one of OVW's annual tryout camps ... Finishing moves are the superplex and the standing neckbreaker.

**386 SEBASTIAN DARK** (6'1", 220, 8, NL) Has the dubious distinction of being the most hated

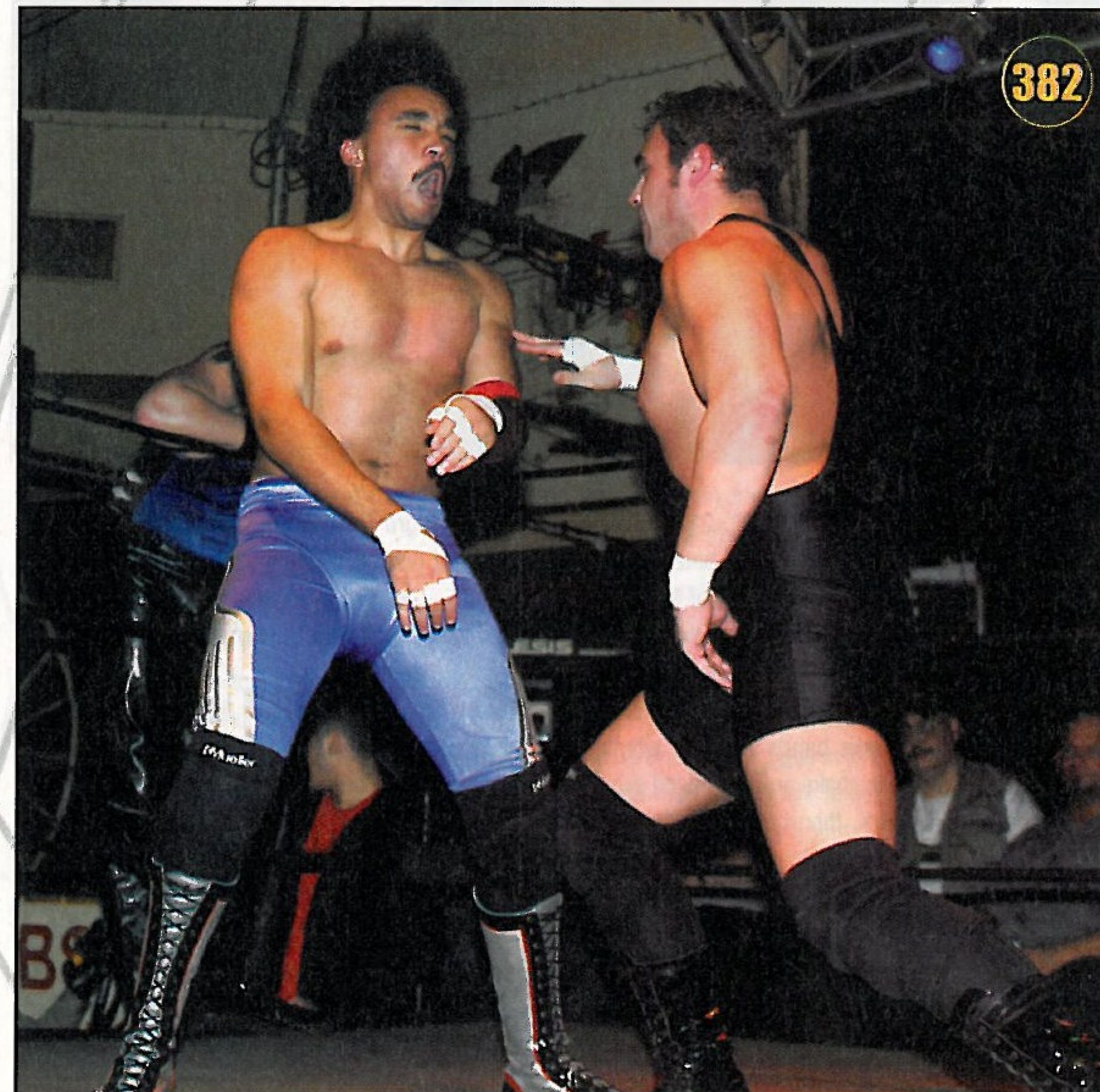
man—on camera and off—in the International Wrestling Cartel ... Convinced Super Hentai to turn against the fans ... The two orchestrated a swerve that saw Dark "blind" Hentai with alcohol, but it turns out it was just water ... Now teaming with HENTAI ... Previously known as Vladamir Vampyre ... Very proud of a win he earned over Jimmy Jacobs ... Frequently interrupts IWC commentary by storming the broadcast booth and delivering loud, obnoxious rants.

**387 SHIRLEY DOE** (5'10", 230, 10, 492) Veteran madman from the Dixmont Mental Hospital has wrestled some of the highest-profile bouts of his career after briefly mulling retirement due to knee problems ... Beat Eric Xstasy for the International Wrestling Cartel title in a match refereed by Mick Foley ... Lost and regained the belt from Mahoney ... Has made it his personal mission to turn the IWC title into a recognized world championship ... Defended the belt in Japan against Seiji Ikeda ... Recently wrestled Abyss in a brutal casket match in Vanton, Ohio ... An avid collector of Japanese wrestling tapes.

**388 BRENT DAIL** (6', 220, 5, NL) One of Dory Funk Jr.'s prized students ... Dail has literally been the poster boy for Funk's wrestling school for several years, but is only now starting to make an impact on his own ... Started testing himself in Puerto Rico, and after a few awkward months, began to hit his stride ... Won the WWF junior heavyweight title in 2003 ... Apparently Funk taught Dail all about good heel turns, as Dail betrayed partner Alex Montalvo and adopted a much more aggressive ring style ... Now known as "Mr. USA" ... An incredible physical specimen who has shown good bursts of potential.

**389 JIGSAW** (6'1", 172, 2, NL) CHIKARA's wrestling riddle is known for his distinctive black and red puzzle piece mask ... Captured the Young Lions Cup in November with a win over Larry Sweeney ... The premier high-flier of CHIKARA ... Has been feuding with the evil Sweet and Sour International faction ... Wrestled in both Europe and Mexico over the past year ... His skull-crushing finishing move is called the jig 'n' tonic ... Has also wrestled in IWA Mid-South, CZW, and more than a dozen other indy promotions, and has won over new fans in each new territory.

**390 HOOK BOMBERRY** (5'6", 165, 3, 465) Busy making a name for himself in California, at his main home of Pro Wrestling Iron as well as other indies around the area ... Has also wrestled in Canada for ECCW ... A former Supreme Pro Wrestling tag champ ... A native of Davis, California ... Known for his arsenal of submission techniques ... Utilizes the "ground and pound" technique ... A young athlete who has a tremendous upside.





**391 CRAZY J** (5'6", 156, 3, NL) Teams with his larger brother, Lotus, in the HWA, Buckeye Pro Wrestling, and IWA Mid-South ... Crazy J and Lotus have held both the HWA and BPW tag belts ... Master of the double-shot ... When he's not teaming with his brother, Crazy J is often competing in intergender tag bouts teaming with his girlfriend, Nevaeh ... High-flying brothers hold a win over the team of Matt Sydal and Delirious.

**392 FRANKIE CAPONE** (5'10", 230, 8, 407) One-half of the reigning NWA-Florida tag team champions "Double Deuce" with Marcus Dillon ... Capone also holds the EWW British heavyweight championship ... Their tag team finisher is the B.O.C., Capone's K-5 reverse stunner into Dillon's running spear ... Feuding with Ron Niemi's 911 Incorporated ... Completed two tours of England with Extreme World Warfare ... Has appeared on NWA-TNA *Impact* several times, including an NWA title match against Jeff Jarrett.

**393 CHRIS TAYLOR** (5'9", 165, 4, NL) "Mr. 21st Century" was trained at the Pittsburgh Wrestling Academy ... Grabbed the vacant NWA-PWX Three Rivers championship with a win over Crusher Hansen, but lost the title to Spryal in December 2004 ... Regained that title in January, beating Nikita Allanov after the title had been declared vacant again ... Also held the EWA and KCW cruiserweight titles ... Was at the forefront of the Youth Movement, pledging to take out "the old relic" Hansen ... Won the eighth annual 'Burgh Brawl in February 2005, becoming the smallest wrestler ever to win that event ... Managed by Krystal Frost.

**394 CHEETAH MASTER** (6'1", 221, 15, 382) Widely considered to be the most popular wrestler in the 37-year history of the ECWA ... High-octane entrance to the strains of "Welcome To The Jungle" still gets the fans excited, even after 15 years in the company ... Was injured in the summer of 2004, but returned to the ring in the fall of that year ... One-time high-flyer has adopted more of a mat-based style in recent years, but still can soar with the eagles when he feels the need ... Has recently feuded with Mr. Ooh La La, Freak Nasty, and Prince Nana ... Also competes in Pennsylvania's Continental Championship Wrestling, in which he has feuded with Sal Sincere.

**395 GRAN AKUMA** (5'10", 199, 2, 496) High-flying *technico* from CHIKARA traveled all over the world last year, competing in Canada, Mexico, and throughout the U.S. ... Known for his Lucha Libre-influenced wrestling style and his powerful kicks ... Forms a tag team

known as F.I.S.T. with Icarus ... The two wrestled in the 32-team World Grand Prix tag tournament, losing to Claudio Castagnoli and Arik Cannon ... Favorite finisher is the Falcon Arrow first popularized by Hayabusa, but Gran Akuma also has a picture perfect frog splash and high cross-body ... Likes to use the Yoshi Tonic high speed pinning combination ... Extremely popular and technically sound.

**396 C.J. O'DOYLE** (5'11", 192, 2, 408) He has quite possibly the palest skin on the independents, even for a redhead ... Three words of advice: sun-less tanning lotion ... Now that he is comfortable with his skills, he really should focus on his look ... Trained by "Pit Bull" Gary Wolfe ... Starting to come into his own in 3PW, in which he is steadily climbing toward a title shot ... Arsenal of finishers include the west side sickle and Celtic crunch (top-rope legdrop).



396

**397 SCOTTIE GASH** (5'10", 210, 5, 404) Gash continues to be one of the most hated men in NWA-PWX ... Was a charter member of the Youth Movement faction ... Was sidelined with a broken ankle for four months ... Returned to the ring to take part in a war zone match with the stipulation that the losing team had to shake hands with the winning team ... Gash refused to shake anyone's hand except for champion Brandon K, then he spit in Brandon's face ... An intense series of grudge matches followed ... Known as "The Spotlight" ... Won the inaugural Ray Mendez Memorial tournament.

**398 KRAZY K** (5'11", 185, 4, 462) The man who calls himself "Your New Addiction" realized his professional dream by beating Steve Corino to win

the OMEGA heavyweight championship in February 2005 ... Has defended the title against Jerrelle Clarke, C.W. Anderson, Justice, and Chasyn Rance ... Krazy K has also had a stranglehold on the OMEGA cruiserweight title ever since winning that belt from A.J. Styles in May 2002 ... Occasionally teams with his brother T.J. Mack as Team Macktion ... Suffered a collapsed lung, which caused him to miss a few months of action last year.

**399 EDDIE GUAPO** (5'11", 215, 4, 429) Wrestled Mana for the WXW heavyweight title in a loser-leaves-town match ... Won the match, but the decision was reversed and Guapo was forced to leave the company ... Was eventually reinstated several months later ... Reunited with E.C. Negro to reform the original Dirty Rotten Scoundralz, then challenged Negro for his WXW TV title

... Beat Negro for that belt in February 2005 ... Suffered a broken collarbone in March but took no time off ... Trained by Homicide ... Calls his neck-breaker finisher "sweet dreams."

**400 THE BOUNCER** (6', 285, 9, 402) The Bouncer is the last guy you want to run in to at the end of the night ... Had success in both singles and tag team competition this year, winning the AXW tag belts with Chuck Brody and beating J.T. Lightning for the MCW U.S. title ... Also teams with Curt Fury as Klub Xtreme ... Debuted in NWA-PWX as an entrant in their annual "Burgh Brawl" battle royal ... Still a mainstay in Mega Championship Wrestling ... Finishes opponents with either his last call superkick or his happy hour, a fireman's carry into a Michinoku driver.



401

**401 CODY STEELE** (6', 213, 5, NL) "Completely" Cody had a breakout year that saw him appear in both NWA-TNA and WWE ... Faced Muhammad Hassan in a dark match in Buffalo, New York, then faced Kurt Angle in the Angle challenge the next night in Rochester in November 2004 ... Lost to Abyss on *Impact* in July 2004 ... Spent most of the past year feuding with fellow Ontario standout Derek Wyld over the services of valet Jennifer Blake and the Neo Spirit Grand and Independent titles ... Beat Wyld in an intense bout that last 59 minutes 59 seconds ... Often compared to an early-career Edge, but may be more versatile.

**402 SHAWN PATRICK** (6', 215, 3, NL) One half of The O.C. Boyz in the ECWA ... Bet you didn't know Delaware was a hotbed for surfer boys ... The Boyz have come close to winning the ECWA tag title on several occasions, but just haven't been able to get the best of The Valedictorians ... Made a brief appearance on *Smackdown* as part of a celebration in honor of JBL, only to be thrown down the ramp by a rampaging Big Show ... Also wrestles for KYDA Pro Wrestling, in which he reigned as Mid-Atlantic champion from April 2004 to March 2005 ... Finishing move is the wave crasher.

**403 GEORGE SOUTH SR.** (6', 240, 23, 399) This longtime NWA preliminary wrestler has been battling Brad Armstrong throughout the Carolinas ... Took

on Fabulous Mr. Franklin as his manager this year ... Lost high-profile matches against The Masked Superstar, Bobby Fulton, and David Flair ... Years of exposure on national TV have made him a well-known commodity ... Once wrestled Ric Flair in an extremely competitive nationally televised bout before succumbing to the figure-four ... Influenced his son, George South Jr., to turn his back on the fans.

**404 ADEN CHAMBERS** (6'1", 190, 4, NL) The taller and more boyish-looking member of The O.C. Boyz in the ECWA ... Chambers and partner Shawn Patrick are the most popular team in the ECWA, modeling themselves as laidback surfer boys in the style of the TV show *The O.C.* ... Has feuded with The Valedictorians, The Canadian Superstars, and The Chick Magnets ... Appeared on *Smackdown* during the JBL championship celebration but ended up being slid down a table and through an ice sculpture by The Big Show ... Now that's just cold ... Has also competed in

KYDA Pro Wrestling, the NWL, and WAW.

**405 RYAN O'REILLY** (6'6", 280, 4, NL) The tall Irishman has been up close and personal with Viscera, facing Big Vis on every match of a two-week tour of South Korea in August 2004 ... Actually beat Viscera in seven of those eight matches ... Has also been in the ring with such names as Headbanger Chaz and Gangrel ... Has also had successful tours of Puerto Rico and appeared in TNA ... Currently in Deep South with a WWE developmental deal ... Trained by Norman Smiley ... Finishing moves are the river dance and the decidedly politically incorrect Irish car bomb ... A former NWA Sunray heavyweight champion.

**406 J-ROCC** (6', 227, 6, 412) J-Rocc has made several appearances on NWA-TNA *Xplosion*, including a close tag match against The Naturals ... Also faced Alex Shelley, Jeff Jarrett, and Abyss ... Scored a big win over Marty Jannetty in NPEW then embarked on a violent feud with Sheik Abdul Hassan, which culminated in a steel cage bout ... Faced Nigel McGuinness the HWA ... Has formed an alliance with Tracey Smothers in an effort to relieve Shirley Doe of the IWC title ... Got a taste of Mr. Socko when he started trouble with Mick Foley ... Looked like he was about to beat Petey Williams in a IWC match until New Jack interfered, allowing Williams to flatten J-Rocc with the Canadian Destroyer.

**407 GLENN SPECTRE** (5'10", 201, 5, 420) Spectre has dramatically changed his look, adopting the name "Wonder Man" and wearing a Wonder Woman-style outfit ... He also uses some, shall we say, flamboyant tactics reminiscent of Rico and Goldust ... Native of Elyria, Ohio, now claims he hails from the Halls of Justice ... Toured Japan three times in the past year, winning the DDT tag team title with Dino as The Gay Machine Guns ... Beat Danny Doring for the NWA Upstate heavyweight title in Rochester, New York ... Scored perhaps the biggest win of his life when he upset Christopher Daniels in the first round of the IWC Super Indy Tournament ... Finishers are called the Glennema (*ick!*) and the shining asteroid.

**408 SUPREME LEE GREAT** (5'10", 220, 6, 463) The Pride of Crestwood High School in Mountaintop, Pennsylvania, entered a best-of-seven, career-vs.-career challenge with Suede ... Suede shattered his collarbone early in that series and had to pull out ... Teamed with The Dynamic Sensation for most of 2004 and then left his home promotion of WXW ... Currently competing in several California promotions and in the CSWF, PCMPW, and NWA-WAW on the East Coast ... Won the NWA-WAW U.S. heavyweight title ... Has begun wrestling overseas and is feuding with The Black Pearl in Italy.

**409 JEFF STARR** (6'1", 219, 6, 439) "Mr. Spotlight" continues to shine in Upstate New York ... Managed by Kenny Cassanova ... Has wrestled WWE dark matches against Sylvain Grenier, Johnny Stamboli, Haku, and Jaime Noble ... Finishing moves are the swanton bomb and the superkick ... Formed Damage Inc. with Danger in World of Hurt Wrestling and is feuding with Chuck Deep ... A high-flier with solid technical wrestling skills ... Has held the WOHW cruiserweight, tag team, and heavyweight titles ... Has also wrestled in Texas, California, and Florida.

**410 EDDIE KINGSTON** (5'1", 228, 2, 471) The obnoxious "King Of Diamonds" has been competing as a singles wrestler ever since his Wild Cards partner, Jack Marciano, left CHIKARA ... A former IWA Mid-South tag team champion ... Also competes in CZW as part of the Black Out faction ... Proved his mettle by surviving one of CZW's ridiculously violent Cage of Death bouts ... Lost his hair last May at the climax of a lengthy feud against fellow CHIKARA Wrestle Factory graduates Gran Akuma and Icarus ... His Yakuza kick is especially feared ... Trained by Mike Quackenbush, but patterns his style after his hero, Eddie Gilbert ... Kingston has great execution on his exploder and uranage suplexes, and his trademark submission hold is the Kondo clutch.



**411 GREG SPITZ** (6'3", 198, 5, 423) This former comedy wrestler has grown up and finally started to wrestle seriously ... Earned himself a roster spot in 3PW before the promotion took a hiatus this summer ... Not much of a high-flyer, but he will take to the air if needed ... Is more suited for a ground-based attack ... Wrestles for many of the smaller promotions in Pennsylvania and New Jersey ... Made his ECWA debut this year ... A comic book fanatic.

**412 DON BASHER** (6', 290, 20, 432) The "Dangerous Bull" has held the WCWO heavyweight title a record 17 times ... Currently feuding with Apocalypse ... That feud has seen both men bleed buckets ... Wants nothing more than to regain his precious WCWO belt, which currently is in the possession of Indiana Kidd Jr. ... One of the top fan favorites in WCWO ... A veteran brawler and power merchant ... Spent several months as WCWO commissioner a while back.

**413 MOZART FONTAINE** (5'9", 201, 6, 454) One-third of The Chick Magnets, along with Brian Soscia and Mike Tobin ... Known as "Fabulous" Mozart Fontaine and says he weighs in at "a finely tuned 201 pounds" ... Managed by the devious yet diminutive Carlton P. Hightower ... The trio dresses up in matching back trunks and Chippendales-style bow ties, but that's where the comparisons to the Chippendales dancers ends ... Trying to make tear-away warm-ups popular ... Has held the ECWA Mid-Atlantic title ... Fontaine has feuded with just about everyone in ECWA.

**414 HURACAN CASTILLO** (5'9", 230, 20, NL) The long-time IWA veteran jumped to the WWF and joined The New Starr Corporation ... Apparently that decision didn't work out as well as he hoped, because he has since joined the Puerto Rican independent promotion NWS and is dedicated to helping that young upstart company blossom into a major force in Puerto Rico ... Was part of Los Boricuas in the WWF in the late-1990s ... A veteran spitfire who is ready to brawl at any time.

**415 SEXXY EDDIE** (6'1", 195, 6, NL) Hails from "Very Long Beach, California" ... We'd tell you the names of his favorite finishing moves, but they're just not appropriate for a family magazine ... Let's just say he's a heck of a high-flyer

and leave it at that ... Has been competing in CZW and Jersey All Pro Wrestling ... Was part of the Cage of Death match in CZW in December 2004, teaming with Chris Cash, J.C. Bailey, and Nate Webb against Ruckus, Sabian, Eddie Kingston, and Jack Evans ... Stole the show in that match when he executed a moonsault off the top of the cage with a trash can around his body ... Fans find his choice of ring attire either sexy or scary.

**416 K-PUSHA** (5'11", 170, 4, NL) Teams with K-Murda as All Money Is Legal ... Hails from The Bronx ... Greatest moment of the past year was when AMIL faced Homicide and B-Boy in the main event of a Politically Incorrect Wrestling card last July ... Managed by Dizzie ... Quick tags and frequent double-teams are AMIL trademarks ... AMIL has feuded with The Dirty Rotten Scoundralz, The Elm Street Kidz, and The Outkast Killaz ... Has wrestled in

NWA-Cyberspace, CHIKARA, WXW, CZW, and several other promotions ... All Money Is Legal often uses the push it and pay'd 'n' full as its finishing moves.

**417 ROMAN** (6'1", 232, 5, 418) Roman captured his fourth Independent Wrestling Federation heavyweight title in April with a win over Fred Sampson ... That same month, he appeared as a fan on *Raw* as part of the Masterlock challenge ... Roman has made many such unaccredited WWE appearances, including as one of Undertaker's druids at WrestleMania XX, one of Kurt Angle's private security guards, and in two WWE commercials ... Has feuded with Sampson, Chris Candido, and Shane O'Brien ... Finisher is the Roman candle, a full-nelson slam ... Also competes in Chaotic Wrestling and the NWS.

**418 CHASE DEL MONTE** (6'1", 215, 1, NL) Native of the Jersey Shore is a former ECWA Mid-Atlantic champion and the reigning Chaotic Wrestling New England champion ... Flashy rookie with the toothy grin is impressing fans and peers throughout the Northeast ... Biggest feud to date was against Brian Milonas, the man he beat for the New England title ... Uses his unique versions of the Diamond cutter and the frog splash as his main finishing moves.

**419 TONY GIVENS** (6, 183, 5, NL) "The Dragon" spent most of the past year teaming with Robbie Cassidy and feuding with Cruel Intentions over the Championship Wrestling tag team title ... Givens and Cassidy finally won the straps on September 18, 2004, in a match officiated by Rick "The Dragon" Steamboat ... Has been competing as a singles wrestler in recent months ... Likes to win matches with a triangle choke/armbar ... Also uses the shining wizard knee strike ... Competes mainly in Tennessee, West Virginia, and Kentucky.

**420 INVADER I** (5'10", 220, 40, NL) In the U.S., he will always be remembered as the man who was tried and acquitted in the stabbing death of Bruiser Brody in a locker room shower, but incredibly, Puerto Ricans fans have put all of that behind them and embrace Invader as a national hero ... The 40-year veteran is feuding with Savio Vega ... Vega has gotten Invader's heart punch banned, claiming it is a potentially deadly move ... Took an active role in developing new talent and began training a new generation of youngsters to try to help them take the next step ... Very few wrestlers can match his experience, but Invader has slowed considerably from his 1980s heyday.

**421 K-MURDA** (5'8", 165, 4, NL) One-half of the team All Money Is Legal, along with K-Pusha ... Greatest moment of the past year was when AMIL faced Homicide and B-Boy in the main event of a Politically Incorrect Wrestling card last July ... Managed by Dizzie ... AMIL has feuded with The Dirty Rotten Scoundralz, The Elm Street Kidz, and The Outkast Killaz ... Has wrestled in NWA-Cyberspace, CHIKARA, WXW, CZW, and several other promotions ... The team's main finishers are the double-team Redrum DDT and the dead prezidents.

**422 DEAN RADFORD** (6'4", 260, 3, NL) One of the most devastating power wrestlers in the International Wrestling Cartel ... Beat Sterling James Keenan for the IWC heavyweight title in spring 2004, but lost the title to Eric Xstasy, thanks to interference from J.T. Rodgers ... Was forced to take some time off after suffering a painful neck injury ... Came back in October and began picking off members of Xstasy's Velvet Mafia one by one ... Finally got his hands on Xstasy and hit him with his Radicator Death Valley driver, sending Xstasy packing from the IWC ... Currently teaming with Jason Gory in a feud with Sebastian Dark and HENTAI.

**423 LUIZ ORTIZ** (5'9", 210, 9, NL) Known as "Latin Fury," Ortiz is one of the highest-profile wrestlers on the Chaotic Wrestling roster ... Holds the distinction of being Chaotic's first Triple Crown winner, as he is a former two-time heavyweight champion, two-time tag champion, and former TV champion ... Scored a big win over Jay Lethal in February 2005 ... Has competed in WWE dark matches ... Main finisher is a split-legged moonsault ... Added several new offensive moves to his repertoire after competing in Japan.

**424 P.T. HUSSLA** (6'1", 254, 4, NL) Hussla is a former WCWO heavyweight champion and regularly teams with D-Von Fury as Simply Marvelous ... Hussla currently holds the TNW Midwest heavyweight title, beating Indiana Kidd in the title tournament finals ... Also feuding with Kidd over the WCWO title ... Has had some of his best matches against C.W. Anderson, Nigel McGuinness, Tracey Smothers, Colt Cabana, and Chad Collyer ... Covets the CWF heavyweight title currently held by Shawn Cook.

**425 SHAWN OSBORNE** (6', 220, 4, NL) Defeated Rory Fox for the Heartland Wrestling Association heavyweight title in March 2005 ... Known as "Bad Seed" Shawn Osborne ... Feud with Ben Kimera resulted in some brutal hardcore brawls that saw Osborne break out a version of the Van terminator, hitting a dropkick from the top rope clear across the ring ... Has also defended the title against Matt Stryker ... Finisher is a full-nelson slam ... Has been proving himself ever since he won the belt to critics who claimed he was a fluke champion.

**426 KEVIN KNIGHT** (6'4", 240, 9, 446) Teamed with Dan McGuire to win the IWF tag team belts in October 2004 ... This is his eighth consecutive appearance in the "PWI 500" in nine years as a pro ... Feuded with The Honky Tonk Man, Jim Neidhart, and Fred Sampson over the past year ... Finisher is the Knight-fall, a Razor's edge variation ... Faced JBL in a non-televised tune-up match held at WWE headquarters to prep the Smackdown champion for his upcoming match against The Big Show ... Regularly competes in Japan and has made numerous WWE appearances ... Also competes in Chaotic Wrestling, NWS, and ACWA ... A trainer at the IWF wrestling camp.

**427 J.P. BLACK** (6'1", 251, 7, NL) The "Dark Pony" rides again in Upstate New York! ... The powerhouse known as "The Dark Pony" recently moved back to the Rochester, New York, area after spending the last few years in Texas ... Held the HIW (Texas City) heavyweight title for a full year and also held the CTPW (Austin) heavyweight title ... Reappeared in NWA-Upstate where he saved his old New Millennium Wrestling counterpart Chip Stetson from an attack by Hellcat's Osawa Syndicate ... Feuded in Texas with The Devastator, Psycho Simpson, and Johnny Blade ...

Incredibly powerful competitor calls his finisher the dark pony rider.

**428 JOHNNY MAXX** (6'4", 225, 5, 445) "Maximum" Johnny is a former East Coast Wrestling Association tag team champion, teaming with his brother Joey ... Now competes almost exclusively as a singles wrestler ... Extremely popular with the fans ... Finishing move is the maximum overdrive ... Also has competed in Pennsylvania's Continental Championship Wrestling ... Maxx's height gives him a leverage advantage over most of the wrestlers he faces in ECWA and CCW.

**429 MIKE DELL** (5'8", 205, 7, 498) Two-time Texas Wrestling Entertainment tag team champion with "Showtime" Scott Summers ... Known as "One Man" Mike Dell for his catchphrase, "It only takes One Man to beat your ass" ... Feuded with Summers when Show-



time turned against him in March 2005 ... Dell challenged Japanese superstar The Great Kazushi for the TWE Texas heavyweight title, but came up short ... A former American Championship Wrestling Texas champion ... Has feuded with Mexican legend L.A. Park.

**430 INDIANA KIDD JR.** (6'1", 242, 10, NL) The reigning WCWO heavyweight champion ... Beat his arch-rival, P.T. Hussla, for that belt ... Kidd's feud with Hussla also extends into TNW, in which the two are feuding over Hussla's Midwest heavyweight title ... Holds the CWF tag team title with Rob Ramer as well ... Ramer and Kidd beat Hussla and D-Von Fury for that title.



**431 BRIAN SOSCIA** (5'11", 193, 5, NL) Brian Soscia is the junior member of The Chick Magnets in the ECWA ... Teams with "Fabulous" Mozart Fontaine and Mike Tobin ... The trio is managed by Carlton P. Hightower ... Known for their constant preening and showboating, and some occasional awkward dancing ... The Chick Magnets are top contenders for the ECWA tag title and have feuded with The Logan Brothers and The O.C. Boyz.

**432 JOHN CURSE** (5'9", 216, 8, 447) Former member of Team Tazz spent the past year working almost exclusively for NYWC ... Teamed with former student Mike Mondo on several occasions ... Known for his clean technical style and has added several new submission holds to his arsenal in hopes of winning the NYWC title ... Also runs the NYWC training center in Deer Park, New York ... Has also teamed with Ken Scampi and Mikey Whipwreck in the past.

**433 J-BUSTA** (5'10", 202, 6, 478) Native of Montreal calls himself "The Canadian Sensation" ... Has competed for the Delaware-based ECWA and Chaotic Wrestling ... Challenged Chase Del Monte for the ECWA Mid-Atlantic title, but came up short ... Has feuded with Mozart Fontaine, The Japanese Pool Boy, Johnny Maxx, and Mike Fury ... Held the WXW cruiserweight title in 2004 ... A solid competitor who has been competing throughout the East Coast.

**434 ROD STEELE** (6'6", 250, 15, 500) The very first OWW heavyweight champion was enjoying his retirement from the ring, writing poetry and motocross racing, but was compelled to return to the ring because of fan demand ... Trained by Rip Rogers ... Bears a striking—and perhaps not so coincidental—resemblance to Randy Savage ... Usually competes in tag team matches these days ... Is known for making the tag and scoop slamming everyone in sight as the fans chant "Scooooooop, slam!" ... A cult favorite in OWW who usually gets a huge ovation just for coming to the ring.

**435 ERIC EVERLAST** (6'4", 265, 6, NL) "The Exceptional Icon" has returned to the "PWI 500" after not being listed in 2004 ... Was ranked 410th in 2002 and 417th in 2003 ... Trained by Killer Kowalski ... Everlast heightened his profile with a major feud with Damien Alexander in Empire State Wrestling in Buffalo, New York ... Also competes in NWA Upstate, the International Wrestling Federation, and World of Hurt Wrestling ... Holds a black belt in judo ... Known for his wicked choke-slam and his "exceptional" slam ... Lost a hair vs. hair match to his brother, Mikey, but found a loophole that forced Mikey to get *his* head shaved ... Has been pushing for a match against NWA Upstate commentator Scotty Bender.

**436 LARRY HUNTLEY** (6'1", 279, 6, NL) "The Enforcer" won the eight-man Jay "Kildevil" DiPaolo Invitational Tournament, an event named in honor of one of his close friends ... Located his "long lost brother," "Handsome" Johnny, and began teaming as The Huntley Boys ... Sounds like an episode of *Montel* to us ... Huntley has held the AWA New England and ICW heavyweight titles and the NWH tag team title three times ... Signature move is the spinshank, a torture rack into a dropping backbreaker.

**437 SCOTT ZENZEN** (6'1", 235, 4, NL) The former postal worker is known throughout the Texas independent circuit as a loose cannon ... Zenzen redefines the phrase "going postal" ... Lost the Texas All-Star heavyweight title to "Hacksaw" Jim Duggan last August and began teaming with former rival Chris Allen ... Together, Allen and Zenzen captured the Texas All-Star tag belts ... Won the Texas Toughest Tournament in American Wrestling Empire, beating long-time rivals Dusty Wolfe and Mr. Entertainment ... Calls his finishing move the ticket to Broadway.

**438 DJ P ROC** (6'5", 245, 5, NL) The big man is also known as Mr. Al B! Damm ... Was part of Triple Heat in WCEW along with The Stro and Aaron Devil until Devil turned against the team ... Feuded with Ali Steele over the WCEW and RWC championships ... Beat Steele for the WCEW title, becoming the first man to simultaneously hold two titles in NCEW history ... Competes around North Carolina, but has also wrestled in Canada and Florida ... Main finisher is his one-hit wonder variation of the Juvi driver.

**439 SNATCH HAGGIS** (6', 250, 4, 480) This has been a turbulent year for Haggis ... Won the NWL heavyweight title and broke away from manager Mike Hay ... That put Haggis at odds with Hay's other grapplers in Clan Hay ... Feuded

with Sean Patrick, Chris Nightmare, Joseph Brooks, and the frightening Fatty McNasty ... Also competing throughout Virginia, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania ... A former KYDA Pro hardcore and Mid-Atlantic champion ... Finishers include the inverted suplex and the superplex.

**440 MEGA** (6'7", 380, 4, 469) The man's motto is, "Fat is good!" and it's obvious he takes those words to heart—or stomach ... The super heavyweight is the resident giant in the ECWA and he's a huge (no pun intended) fan favorite, especially with the kids ... The gentle giant has feuded with Prince Nana, The Chick Magnets, and Kodiak Bear ... Beat Kodiak Bear in the ECWA's first-ever concession stand match ... Enormously powerful and slow to anger, but can show real fire when he gets riled—or when people pick on his friends ... Occasionally competes in the NYWC.



**441 BILLY BART** (5'10", 261, 11, 485) The "Bad Boy" is living up to that name, establishing himself as one of the most hated wrestlers in the Midwest ... Lost to Jimmy Valiant on Thanksgiving Night 2004, but don't think for a moment that loss humbled him ... Has been feuding with Brian Roberts in the CWF for several months ... Bart was wreaking havoc in TNW until Hillbilly Jed came to the rescue and challenged Bart to an annihilation match, which is just as brutal as it sounds ... Traveled to Florida to train with Dory Funk Jr. in April.

**442 RUSSELL SIMPSON** (6'1", 230, 6, 425) "Psycho" Simpson hails from "The Asylum" and often wrestles in his boxer shorts ... Known for his devastating butt bump ... Defeated Devastator for the Christian Wrestling Federation heavyweight title in July 2003 ... Sometimes brings a doll to the ring as his inspiration, but the doll isn't nearly as inspiring as his personal nurse, the lovely Nurse Venus ... Serves as the head trainer for Champions of Texas Pro Wrestling.

**443 JOHNNY GRAHAM** (5'10", 225, 18, 426) The wily veteran has adopted the nickname "The Indy Legend" ... Greatest moment of the past year

came when he wrestled Jimmy Valiant in Valiant's last West Virginia appearance before retiring from active competition ... Competes throughout West Virginia, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey ... Feud with Shane Shadows raged on in four different promotions ... Held the CPW title and the Susquehanna Wrestling Organization title ... Finisher is the Graham cracker.

**444 DARIN CHILDS** (5'9", 212, 6, 474) Childs has spent most of the past year competing for Rudy Boy Gonzales in Texas Wrestling Entertainment ... Formed The Rock 'n' Roll Nightmares with Joey Spector and valet "Rockin'" Rachel Putski ... The Nightmares are two-time TWE tag champions ... Has competed throughout Mexico as Sin Mascara Black Rocker ... Feuded with Seth Shai and Enigma over the SWWF Xtreme title, culminating in a big ladder match in December 2004 ... ASPW's Wrestler of the Year in 2002 and 2003.

**445 SHAWN CHRISTOPHER** (5'9", 220, 10, NL) "Showtime" Shawn returned to the ring in July 2004 as the special guest referee in the finals of the HCW heavyweight tournament ... Was less than an impartial referee when he smashed a chair over

Mike Harris' head, allowing Billy Maverick to win the match and the title ... Formed The New Age Horsemen with Maverick and has been causing trouble for all the HCW fan favorites ... Began a vicious feud with Alex Walker that has resulted in some of the most violent matches in HCW history ... Finisher is the slingshot suplex.

**446 ICARUS** (5'10", 174, 3, NL) Previously competed as the masked Ichabod Slayne in CHIKARA, but turned over a new leaf after losing his mask to Blind Rage ... Among the first class of graduates from the CHIKARA Wrestle Factory ... Teams with Gran Akuma as F.I.S.T. ... Over the past year, Icarus has branched out, wrestling for JCW, CZW, IWA Mid-South, and several other promotions from Minnesota to Massachusetts ... Made his debut with Mexico's



ENESMA promotion as well ... Surprises opponents with his split-legged moonsault from the corner ... Capable of absorbing tremendous punishment and bouncing back for more ... Signature move his shiranui ... Tremendously popular with female fans.

**447 JUSTIN IDOL** (5'8", 185, 7, NL) "The Aerial Icon" has consistently been one of the most popular wrestlers in NWA Pro Wrestling Express ... Spent the summer of 2004 leading an "old school team" against the rulebreaking Youth Movement faction, culminating in a main event showdown at NWA PWX's 10th anniversary card ... Had a brutal feud with Chris Taylor over the Three Rivers championship, including a wild dog-collar match ... Competes throughout Pennsylvania, Ohio, and the Carolinas ... Held the ICW North American, CAPW cruiserweight, and CWF tag titles during the past year ... Has faced Chris Hamrick, Sean Waltman, and Sonjay Dutt ... Signature moves are the rope breaker (a spinning neckbreaker with his foe's feet on the top rope) and his vital idol snapmare into a Death Valley driver.

**448 HANDSOME JOHNNY** (6'1", 255, 3, NL) One-half of Pretty Psycho with his best friend, Psycho ... Won the Chaotic Wrestling tag belts by outlasting six other teams in a tag team gauntlet match in June 2004 ... Debuted in the ECWA last September in a match against Scotty Charisma ... Lost the belts in a controversial match to The Val-edictorians, but Johnny and Psycho regained the title on January 8 in a tag team ladder match ... After losing the belts to The Logan Brothers, Johnny and Psycho are trying their luck as singles wrestlers.

**449 J.T. LIGHTNING** (5'10", 242, 13, 497) Home promotion is Cleveland All-Pro Wrestling, but he competes throughout Ohio, Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, West Virginia, and Tennessee ... Often teams with Sterling James Keenan ... Managed by Krystal Frost ... Held the Mega Championship Wrestling heavyweight title for most of the past year ... Has previously appeared in TNA, where Lightning hopes to strike more than once ... Feuded with Bane and Da Munchies this year.

**450 FRANKY THE MOBSTER** (6'3", 250, 8, NL) The man with the imposing name had a big comeback year, expanding beyond his home base of Northern Championship Wrestling and competing in the International Wrestling Syndicate ... Beat Pierre-Carl Ouellette in a six-way mayhem bout to win the IWS heavyweight title ... Also feuded with Sinn and the up-and-coming Kevin Steen ... Then it was on to CZW, where he beat B-Boy for the ironman championship ... Has also appeared in Jersey All Pro and Toronto's Squared Circle ... Known for his credibility statement finishing move.



**451 ANDRE LYONZ** (5'10", 200, 3, NL) A former tag team specialist, Lyonz tried his hand at singles wrestling in Chaotic Wrestling and the ECWA ... Known for his breathtaking senton bomb ... Fell into a bad losing streak and was given a "three strike" challenge by Chaotic management, meaning if he didn't win one of his next three matches, he'd lose his spot on the roster ... Those matches ended up being against Low-Ki, Austin Aries, and John Walters, and Lyonz lost all three bouts, though he put in a strong effort each time ... Loudly complained he was the victim of a conspiracy in that he had to face such accomplished opponents ... Currently competing in several New England indy promotions.

**452 KEVIN BAKER** (6'2", 252, 3, NL) "The Candyman" is a graduate of the Blue Water Wrestling Academy ... A native of Hershey, Pennsylvania, which explains the candy fetish—sort of ... Former Blue Water Championship Wrestling tag team champion with Michael Barnes as Sugar and Spice ... Also a former MFW heavyweight champion ... Baker has recently begun competing as a singles wrestler after Barnes went down with an injury ... Feuding with D-Ray 3000 ... Calls his version of the side-walk slam the candy slam.

**453 JOLLY ROGER** (6', 177, 2, NL) The break-dancing party pirate of CHIKARA is one of the most charismatic graduates of the CHIKARA Wrestle Factory ... Wears an eye patch to the ring, but wrestles without it ... Forms Knight Eye for the Pirate Guy with partner Lance Steel ... His super prawn hold from the top rope is a crushing pinning combination ... Sometimes accompanied to the ring by his parrot, El Hijo del Frankie—we kid you not ... Has wrestled for CZW, FNW, CWF, and several other promotions ... His finishing move is a running tomakaze he calls—you guessed it—the walk the plank.

**454 CHARLES MERCURY** (5'7", 188, 3, NL) It's a good thing Kerry Von Erich's not around to see Mercury billing himself as "The Modern Day Warrior" ... Won the Revolution Pro tag team championship with Bigg E. Biggz in August 2004 ... A solid submission wrestler, Mercury likes to use the Texas cloverleaf or the cross-armbreaker to beat opponents ... Competed in Revolution Pro's first steel cage match ... Scored a fall over El Generico in a championship gauntlet match in Pro Wrestling WAR ... Previously wrestled as El Gallinero IV.

**455 TOMMY SUEDE** (5'11", 218, 7, 481) A mainstay in WXW, in which he's wrestled since his debut ... A company man, he has held every title in WXW at least once ... Has toured such exotic places as Korea, Japan, Honduras, Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam,

Okinawa, and Hawaii ... Also wrestled in 3PW, the Heritage Wrestling Alliance, and ACW Pro Wrestling in Germany ... Has appeared in WWE dark matches, most notably against Gene Snitsky ... Feuded with Homicide in WXW at the beginning of the year and eventually defeated him in a steel cage match.

**456 GUTTER** (6', 232, 8, 468) Does anyone else hear those voices? Nope, they're all in Gutter's head ... Formerly accompanied to the ring by an actual gutter he called Cindy ... A graduate of the Can-Am Wrestling School ... Currently chasing the BCW tag title with partner Tyson Dux ... Gutter is also a former Douglas Chevalier Memorial battle royal winner and has held the MWA and NWA Great Lakes heavyweight titles ... Previously teamed with Hacker in BCW ... Finisher is the Diamond Gutter ... Stocky build and broad chest give him great upper body strength for his size.

**457 MARCUS DILLON** (6'2", 285, 6, NL) One-half of the current NWA Florida tag team champions "Double Deuce" with partner Frankie Capone ... Dillon and Capone won those belts from Mikey Batts and Jerrelle Clarke last October ... Dillon completed two tours of the United Kingdom for the Extreme World Warfare promotion ... Appeared on *Impact* against 3 Live Kru and had one WWE dark match while training under Dory Funk Jr. ... Wins most of his matches with either his forcible entry bow-and-arrow or the B.O.C. (a spear followed by an F-5 from Capone).

**458 DANGER** (6'4", 333, 10, 493) The man-mountain from "Bigsville, U.S.A." has gotten even bigger, adding almost 10 pounds since last year ... Usually competes in the Northeast, but has also wrestled on a tour of South Africa ... The current World of Hurt heavyweight champion ... An extremely decorated veteran who has won scores of regional titles ... Destroys opponents with his suffocation devastation, a double-handed choke-slam ... Nicknames include "The Albino Rhino," "The One-Ton Human Wrecking Machine," and "The Largest Man On The Planet" ... Has appeared on *Smackdown* and *Velocity* as Dave DeGeorge ... Finally fired manager Kenny Casanova ... Donned a hood as The Masked Scorpion and beat The Texas Outlaw for the WOHW title.

**459 DARON SMYTHE** (6'1", 218, 6, NL) "The Pride Of West Virginia" has been winning titles all over the place over the past year, including the BDW heavyweight title, ICW U.S. tag title (with Dash Bennett), the XWF heavyweight title, the NWA-PWX brass knuckles title, and the CWF tag title (with Devin Devine) ... Toured Florida after losing a loser-leaves-town match to Nikita Allanov in NWA-PWX, but was reinstated to the company a few months later ... Turned against partner Bennett at the NWA-PWX 10th anniversary card, joining The Youth Movement ... Watch out for Smythe's jumping Yakuza kick and hypnocrusher (a hiptoss into a brainbuster from the top rope.)

**460 LESLIE LEATHERMAN** (6'4", 335, 6, NL) Recaptured the National Wrestling League title from Headshrinker Samu and has defended the belt against Road Warrior Animal, Gangrel, John Rambo, and Nikolai Volkoff ... Won a 40-man Lord of the Rings Tournament, beating Gutterboy in a falls-count-anywhere match in the finals ... Also the reigning KYDA heavyweight champion ... Feuding with King Kong Bundy and The Patriot in several East Coast promotions ... Teams with Jake Davis as The Highwaymen and Dorian Deville as Monsters Inc. ... Known as Private Twinky in Far North Wrestling and "Hulks up" during matches by munching on junk food.



**461 MISTER ZERO** (5'7", 205, 3, 499) A cult favorite in CHIKARA ... A masked middle-aged business tyrant hailing from "Cubicle City" ... Known to bring his commuter mug full of coffee and the morning paper to the ring with him ... Teams with Shane Storm as Men at Work ... Had the most intense bout of his career at the 2005 Tag World Grand Prix Tournament, where he and Storm were beaten to bloody pulps by Madman Pondo and Necro Butcher ... Likes to put opponents away with his last shaven unicorn drop.

**462 QUINTEN LEE** (6'2", 224, 3, 487) "High IQ" became the Heartland Wrestling Association TV champion for a record-setting third time when he defeated Chad Collyer ... Forms the team Foreign Intelligence with partner Ala Hussein ... He and Hussein are former HWA tag champs ... Lee considers himself to be wrestling's smartest man, though you won't find many fans who support that claim ... Favorite moves are the that's academic triple kick, the empire leg submission, and the gourdbuster.

**463 ADAM BOOKER** (6', 255, 3, NL) Portland, Maine, native started the year with just one goal: to make a name for himself ... He's doing just that ... Developed into one of the top prospects on the New England independent scene ... Won the NWA New England TV title by beating Beau Douglas ... Married his valet, Kristine, in May 2005 ... Has feuded with Douglas, Frankie Armadillo, and Adam Hastey ... Finishes include the top-rope elbow and the facebuster.

**464 SEAN ALLEN** (6'2", 251, 6, NL) Has spent most of his career to date as a tag team wrestler, pairing with Dennis Allen throughout the Southeast ... Allen is a member of The Firm in NWA Sunray and is managed by Blare Rogers ... His defining moment from the past year was winning a three-way match for the NWA Sunray championship ... A former FWA heavyweight champion, FOW tag team and six-man champion, and Coastal Championship Wrestling tag champion with Ryan O'Reilly ... Finishing move is called the psycho slam, which sounds like a meal at Denny's ... A Philadelphia native.

**465 FREAK NASTTY** (5'11", 230, 2, NL) Freak Nastty is a "freak" in the Scott Steiner sense of the word in that his incredible physique just has to be seen to be believed ... Made a transition from the world of bodybuilding into pro wrestling, thanks in part to help from his manager, E.S. Easton ... A native of Wilmington, Delaware, Nastty competes in the East Coast Wrestling Association and Chaotic Wrestling ... Rapidly learning some of the tricks of the trade, and once he does, he'll be a dangerous force.

**466 DARKNESS CRABTREE** (5'10", 204, 62, NL) Claims to be the oldest active wrestler at 83, but Crabtree is really just a young liar ... His slow, ambling ring entrances often last longer than his matches ... Also claims to have wrestled a 23-hour

bout against fellow CHIKARA wrestler Lance Steel ... More lies ... Allegedly suffered a series of mild heart attacks during a tag match last February ... Sometimes gets a burst of energy after chugging some of his prescription medications ... Favorite moves include the Stone Age stunner and the sweatertree.

**467 JACK THRILLER** (5'8", 190, 6, 472) Trained by former NWA and UFC champion Dan Severn in the art of compression submission ... Became the first Price of Glory grand champion in June 2004 ... Was one of eight wrestlers to be selected to compete in the October 2004 Price of Glory Tournament, in which he beat Gutter and Jimmy Jacobs before falling to Shark Boy in the finals ... Successfully toured the United Kingdom, scoring wins over C.J. Otis and Paul Vault ... Embraced by the fans after renouncing his rulebreaking ways ... Teams with Johnny Dynamo as The Wild Stallions ... If only their first names were Bill and Ted, that would truly be excellent.

**468 DEXTER POINDEXTER** (5'1", 165, 3, NL) Claims to hail from "Study Hall," but where else would you expect someone named Dexter Poindexter to come from? ... Has wrestled in several promotions from Georgia to Connecticut in the past year ... Has also taken on tougher competition, including Caprice Coleman, Ricky Landell, and New Japan's Giant Machine ... Also wrestles as T.J. Mack, though fans don't know T.J. and Dexter are the same guy ... Well, now they do ... Teams with his brother, Kirby (also known as Krazy K), throughout the Carolinas as Team Macktion ... Missed two months after surgery, but has recovered better than anyone could have expected ... His finisher, a version of the sliced bread #2, is called the A+.

**469 KEVIN GRACE** (5'10", 175, 4, NL) The third member of The All-Knighters along with senior members Robin Knightwing and Joey Knight ... The All-Knighters have been invoking the Freebird rule and allowing any two members to team—and defend titles—under that





## 471 SHAWN COOK (6', 200, 6, NL) "Sexy"

Shawn is considered one of the premier talents in the Midwest, regularly competing for Midwest Regional Wrestling and several other promotions ... Is one of the top contenders to the MRW title ... Teams with Donny Idol and is pursuing the MRW tag title ... Held the Central Wrestling Federation title for most of the past year and successfully defended that belt against Colt Cabana, Koko B. Ware, Johnny Grunge, C.W. Anderson, Rick Morton, and Tracey Smothers ... Managed by J.T. Brannum in MRW and is part of Brannum's EGO stable.

## 472 SHORTY SMALLS (5'7", 210, 10, NL)

The redundantly named Shorty Smalls is a staple in the NWL and House of Pain Wrestling Federation ... Held the NWL tag title with Deuce Donatelli and the NWL/HOPWF hardcore title ... Competes around Pennsylvania, Maryland, and West Virginia ... Did well at an OVW tryout camp and was asked to return in the future ... Managed by Kacee Carlisle ... Last appeared in the "500" in 2003 in the 405 spot ... Usually uses a frog splash as his finishing move ... Feuding with the horror show named Chuckie Manson.

## 473 TONY GOLDEN (6'1", 255, 12, NL)

Golden is making his seventh appearance in the "500" since his debut in 1993 ... Spent the first 10 years of his career wrestling in South Florida independents, then moved to West Virginia in 2003 ... Has had a tumultuous relationship with "Luscious" Lance Malinowski, with whom Golden has held the Mason-Dixon tag team title and also feuded over that promotion's Southern championship.

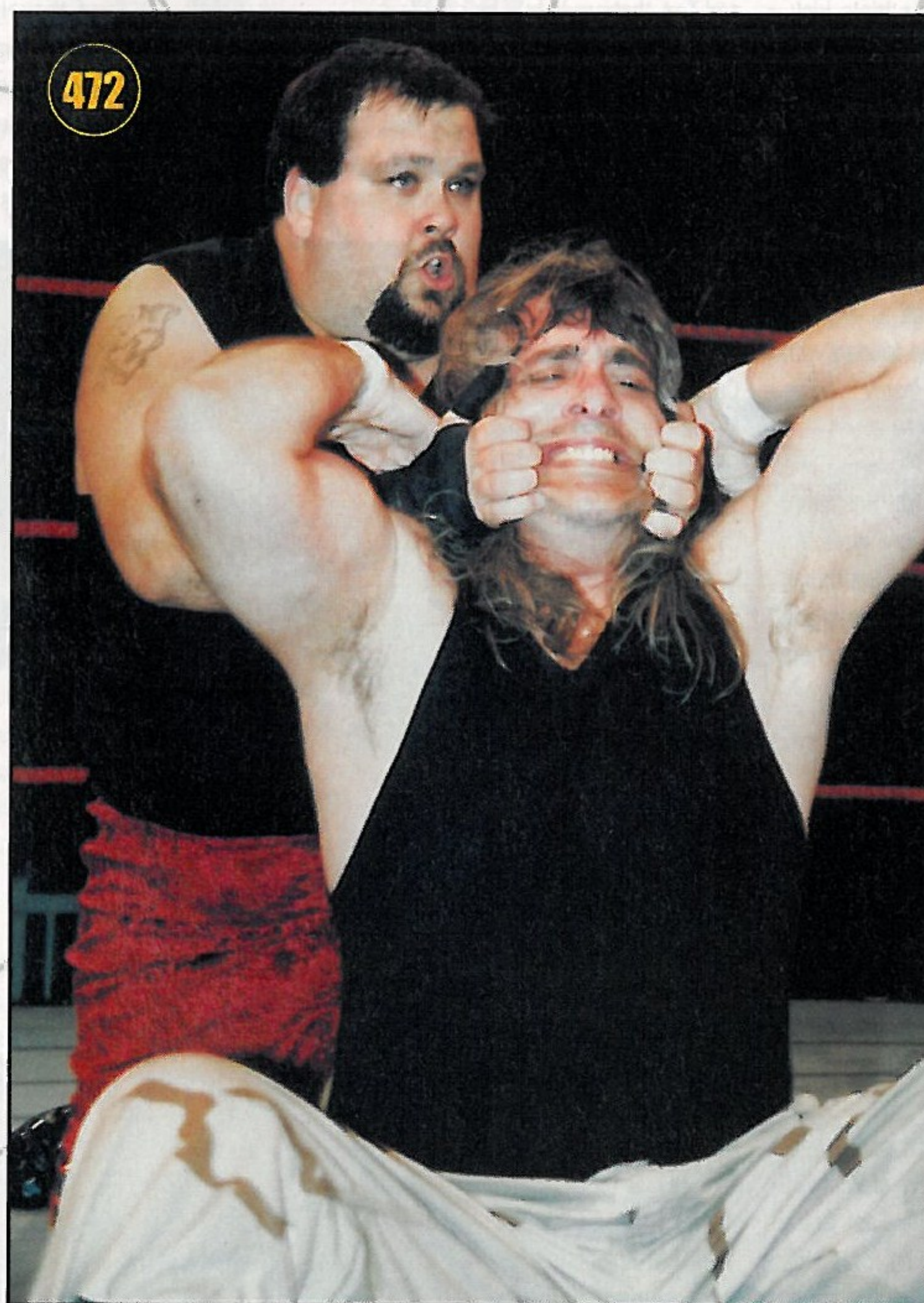
## 474 NOVA CAIN (6'2", 300, 6, NL)

Returned to the ring last September after missing eight months of action after surgery ... Home promotion is Northern Championship Wrestling in Montreal ... Got his revenge on Binovich Fournavov, the man who injured him, and put the Russian out of action for two months with a sickening piledriver ... Has only been pinned twice since making his return and remained undefeated in singles matches for more than seven months ... Last ranked in the "PWI 500" in 2003 ... Relies on the Nova driver and his TKO to end matches.

**475 BRIAN DANZIG** (5'11", 235, 11, NL) Veteran brawler hails from "The Dark Side" ... Finishing move is the viledriver ... Currently feuding with Creeping Death and War ... Previously held the AIWF tag team championship with War until commissioner Matt Carter stripped War of the title for not making a title defense and handing the belt over to the returning Rick Deeze ... Still one of the most feared and hated competitors in the AIWF.

## 476 TERRY ALAN (5'8", 203, 12, 484)

Veteran Kentucky-based grappler has shown he is willing to do whatever it takes to win ... His wild feud with Maddawg included a shot glass match, a no-cheat match, a dog food match, and plenty of streetfights ... How's that for old school? ... A former Mid-South Wrestler of the Year ... Has faced several legendary Southern wrestlers, including Jimmy Valiant, Buddy Landell, and Rick Morton ...



Finishing move is a spinning DDT ... Is still most proud of his win over one of his childhood heroes, Bill Dundee.

## 477 POWERHOUSE HUGHES (6'5", 275, 8, NL)

When you're dealing with Powerhouse

Hughes, you certainly get truth in advertising ... One of the most popular independent wrestlers in Pittsburgh history ... A former CWF heavyweight and Keystone champion, Hughes has feuded with Lord Zoltan and teamed with Eric Lancy to win the CWF tag belts during the past year ... Also feuded with legendary veterans like Kamala, The Honky Tonk Man, and Devin Devine ... Finisher is the 'house bomb ... Has been slightly hampered by a nagging back injury.

## 478 VIPER (5'10", 175, 1, NL)

Very little is known about this mysterious masked man from the Heartland Wrestling Association ... Says he hails from the Master Chin Zin Dojo ... A master of the martial arts, Viper is never without his trusty nunchakus ... It is said that the man behind the mask is a former U.S. Marine ... A win over Matt Stryker put the rookie on the map ... Viper is extremely quick and strikes with precision kicks and attacks, much like his namesake.

## 479 ULTRAMANTIS BLACK (6', 206, 3, NL)

A former *technico*, this CHIKARA wrestler turned against partner Mister ZERO last year and became a *rudo* ... Now teaming with Hallowicked as Dark Breed ... Missed some time last year due to a meddlesome back injury ... Has competed throughout the U.S. for CZW, LXW, and CCW, and for Canada's Internet Wrestling Syndicate ... A wild match against veteran Tracey Smothers was a huge learning experience for Ultramantis ... Likes to work from the butterfly—or double-underhook—position and can move into several submission holds and suplex variations from that stance ... Favorite moves include the Tiger driver and the reverse S.T.O.

## 480 BRUISER GRAHAM (5'10", 265, 10, 488)

The self-proclaimed "best-kept secret in independent wrestling" ... Does that mean there are better-kept secrets in WWE? ... Recently captured his third Bruiser Wrestling Federation tag title with his third different partner ... Also won the newly formed CWA's heavyweight title ... Won a 20-man battle royal to win

the Jimmy Valiant Tribute Cup trophy in May ... Occasionally managed by Valiant, so his win was appropriate ... Recently began competing in New Age Wrestling in Virginia and Pro Wrestling Entertainment in Pennsylvania ... Boasts impressive grappling skills and good agility for a rather big man.

**481 HELLCAT** (5'9", 202, 8, NL) Western New York veteran is the owner of NWA Upstate and the leader of the promotion's top heel faction, The Osawa Syndicate ... Hellcat's career has been marked by injuries, as a third spinal surgery put him on the shelf for six months ... Returned from that career-threatening surgery to beat rival Triple X in a no-DQ match in February ... Signature moves include the Hell raiser (a sitout pedigree) and his 4:20 headbutt ... Hellcat says he's just finishing up some old business before retiring once and for all and building NWA Upstate into a premier promotion ... A wily veteran capable of doing anything to get what he wants.

## 482 RIC GUNNER (5'9", 185, 9, NL)

"The Shooting Star" has been embroiled in a violent feud with Black Rain and his Black Carnival ... Suffered a badly injured ankle before his match against the HCW British champion "Lord" Sebastian Valmont, courtesy of Black Rain ... One of the most popular wrestlers in HCW, where he's held every title ... Teaming with Shane Matthews in an effort to take the tag belts away from Black Rain and Mason the Mangler.

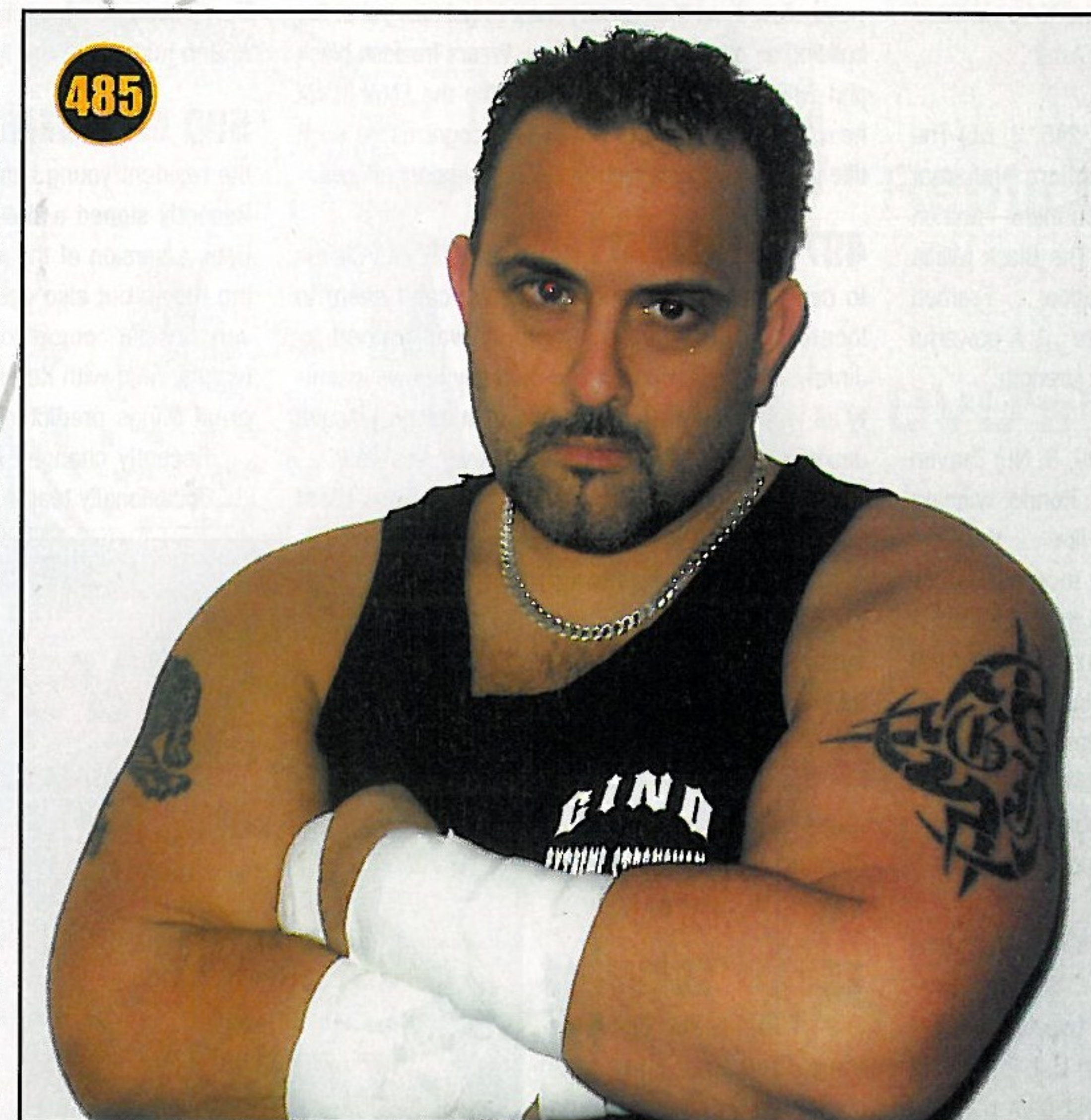
## 483 PHIL ATLAS (5'9", 202, 2, NL)

Windsor, Ontario, native is one of the most recent graduates of Scott D'Amore's Can-Am Wrestling School ... Recently started teaming with "The Barbaric Berzerker" Jimmy Jacobs in Border City Wrestling ... Also competes throughout Michigan ... Not the biggest wrestler, but quite strong for his size ... Shows promise with impressive chain wrestling skills and mat wrestling ... Should gain more confidence and seasoning as the years progress ... Learning a lot from his more experienced partner.

## 484 FORSAKEN (5'9", 187, 6, 489)

Alabama-based competitor scored a big win over Jimmy Rave in a four-way elimination match last June ... Has held the tag team title in Dory Funk Jr.'s BANG TV promotion on two occasions with partner Yako Romero, a.k.a. The Freekshows of Faith ... Forsaken is also a former LAW-ICW heavyweight champion ... Appeared in NWA Wildside, challenging champion Jeremy V ... Also scored a big win over TNA competitor Jerrelle Clarke ... Main finishers are the last dream (a sky high into a sitout uranage) and the lost hope (a variation of the hangman's clutch).

**485 GINO MARTINO** (5'11", 275, 9, NL) "The Extreme Strongman" has been training with The Iron Sheik to perfect his camel clutch ... In a bit of old school flair, Martino has offered a \$5,000 headbutt challenge to show he has the hardest head in all of professional wrestling ... Complements his power wrestling style with hardcore tactics and is known for competing in matches involving copious amounts of thumbtacks, barbed wire, and fire ... Joined with Ox Baker's Army of Kamala and The Executioner to face Todd Hanson, "Cowboy" Bob Orton, and Beau Douglas ... Though Executioner was pinned, Martino was blamed for the loss and was booted from Ox's Army ... Preparing to return to the MWF with the knowledge he has gotten from his time with the Sheik.



## 486 JOHN CABBIE (6'1", 210, 3, NL)

The man from Heaven's Gate, California, is a frequent tag team partner of Greg Spitz ... Well-traveled newcomer has competed in several Northeast indy promotions, including WXW, PWE, and SAW ... Also competes as Bishop ... Had a career highlight his past year when he faced one of wrestling's great madmen of yesteryear, The Missing Link ... Won the WXW tag team title with Spitz ... Has been managed by the elitist snob Saul Steinberk.

## 487 GOTTI (6'1", 238, 8, NL)

Also known as "The Other Dark Meat," which is just a disturbing nickname ... Regularly competes for the Heartland Wrestling Association ... A former HWA TV champion, Gotti is also a member of the HWA broadcast

team ... A natural talker with equal parts arrogance and charisma to go along with his verbal skill ... His motto is "It's good to be Gotti," and he would know ... Hails from Raleigh, North Carolina ... Had a major feud with "Two Face" Sammie Carrelli, which just sounds like a *Sopranos* episode summary.

## 488 WILL CHRISTIANSON (5'8", 185, 4, NL)

Incredible work ethic and attitude have made "Mastiff" a rising star in Western New York and Southern Ontario ... Feuded with the arrogant Jonny Puma throughout 2003 in Empire State Wrestling ... Beat Puma for the ESW heavyweight title and successfully defended it against Cody Steele, Chris Cooper, and others before losing the belt back to Puma in August 2004 ... Also competes in Ontario's Neo Spirit Pro Wrestling and NWA Upstate ... Was personally selected by Scott D'Amore from a field of more than 25 indy prospects to compete in a six-man "futures" match that also included Jay Lethal, Petey Williams, and Roderick Strong at Ballpark Brawl 4 in Buffalo in July 2005.

## 489 JIMMY CASH (6', 252, 7, NL)

Power-based veteran based out of New World Wrestling ... Also has appeared in ROH and Chaotic Wrestling ... Combines brute strength with mat wrestling skills and submission holds ... A favorite of the ladies because of his "jacked" physique ...

Teams with "Big" Paulie Gilmore as The Men of Business ... Cash and Gilmore hold the NWW tag title ... Has all the physical tools to go places in the sport.

## 490 BRIAN COSTELLO (6', 245, 23, NL)

The veteran returns to the "500" after missing the cut last year ... Costello boasts that he has "just broken Bruno Sammartino's record as longest-running champion," as he has held the IAW heavyweight title for nearly eight full years now ... Somehow, we don't think Costello is going to make us forget about Bruno ... Has had wild feuds with Terry Funk and The Barbarian ... Over the course of his career, Costello has competed in the WWF, WCW, AWA, and All-Japan ... Still known for breaking Paul Roma's neck and a countout win over Andre the Giant ... A cagey veteran with an impressive resume.



**491 TOY DODSON** (5'11", 215, 9, NL) "The Pro" was out of action for five months with a back injury ... Made a big comeback in 2005, calling out several rookies who he felt were getting far too arrogant for their own good ... Currently feuding with former partner Adam Jacobs ... He and Jacobs have had an on-again/off-again relationship since 1996, when Dodson teamed with Jacobs in his first match ... An eight-time Tri-Star tag team champion, three-time heavyweight champion, and six-time junior champion ... Calls his devastating superkick "The Ticket To Toyland" ... Last ranked in the "500" in 1999 at number 407 ... Managed by R.J. Slater.

**492 BROTHER CLAY** (6'4", 245, 3, NL) The God-fearing big man from Resurrection, Alabama, shocked his fans by turning his back on them—and on the Good Book ... Helped eradicate The Black Militia from the Heartland Wrestling Association ... Teamed with Matt Dillinger as Southern Breeze ... A powerful competitor blessed with great size and strength.

**493 ERIC DRAVEN** (6'1", 199, 3, NL) Draven made his pro debut against Madman Pondo, winning by DQ ... Talk about a baptism of fire ... Held the AWA Supreme U.S. title for eight months before dropping the belt to Nick Noble ... A three-time AWA Supreme tag champion with Spazz ... Greatest moment of the past year was teaming with Koko B. Ware to beat The Blackhearts in October 2004 ... Often managed by "Stylin'" Stacy Starr ... Competes throughout Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio ... Signature moves are his Seattle sidekick and moonsault.

**494 AARON DEVIL** (6'2", 252, 4, NL) Managed by the mysterious Dark Angel ... Devil is a two-time WCEW hardcore champion and two-time WCEW tag champion, winning gold with both D.J. P Roc and Charlie Dreamer ... He turned against both partners after losing the belts, which just goes to show you can't trust a guy named Devil ... Spent much of the past year feuding with The Stro, Ouga Bouga, Justin Feeche, and Ali Steele ... Teamed with Eddie Brown in a loss to Rick Morton and Draven at ACPW's legends card ... Competes almost exclusively on the North Carolina indy circuit ... Is part of The New Era Thugs with Feeche and Zane Dawson.

**495 DAMIAN DRAGON** (5'8", 185, 8, NL) A former karate instructor, "Disturbed" Damian got his start by training at Johnny Rodz' School of Wrestling ... Home promotion is NYWC, but Dragon also competes throughout New Jersey, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Florida ... Signature move is his Route 666 version of the sliced bread #2 ... Learned the art of rulebreaking when he was managed by Gangrel, who paired him with Jai Kronik as Projekt 13

... Now managed by Foxy Dreams ... Suffered a severe neck stinger that has left him with occasional numbness in his right arm, but Dragon refuses to take time off from the ring ... Style is a mixture of old-fashioned brawling, martial arts attacks, grappling, and Lucha Libre-styled high-flying ... Has held the AWA lightweight, UWZ cruiserweight, and IHPW tag titles.

**496 LORD ZOLTAN** (6', 222, 27, NL) The bizarre Lord Zoltan is approaching his third decade in the sport ... Hails from Bourbon Street in New Orleans ... A mainstay in the Pittsburgh, Ohio, and West Virginia area, Zoltan has competed just about everywhere at one point or another ... Always demands that promoters let him wrestle first on the card, and promoters always allow it, as they usually want to get him out of the building as quickly as possible ... Wears freakish black and white face paint ... Claims to be the FNW junior heavyweight champion, but FNW recognizes no such title ... Known for his high-flying, high-impact offense.

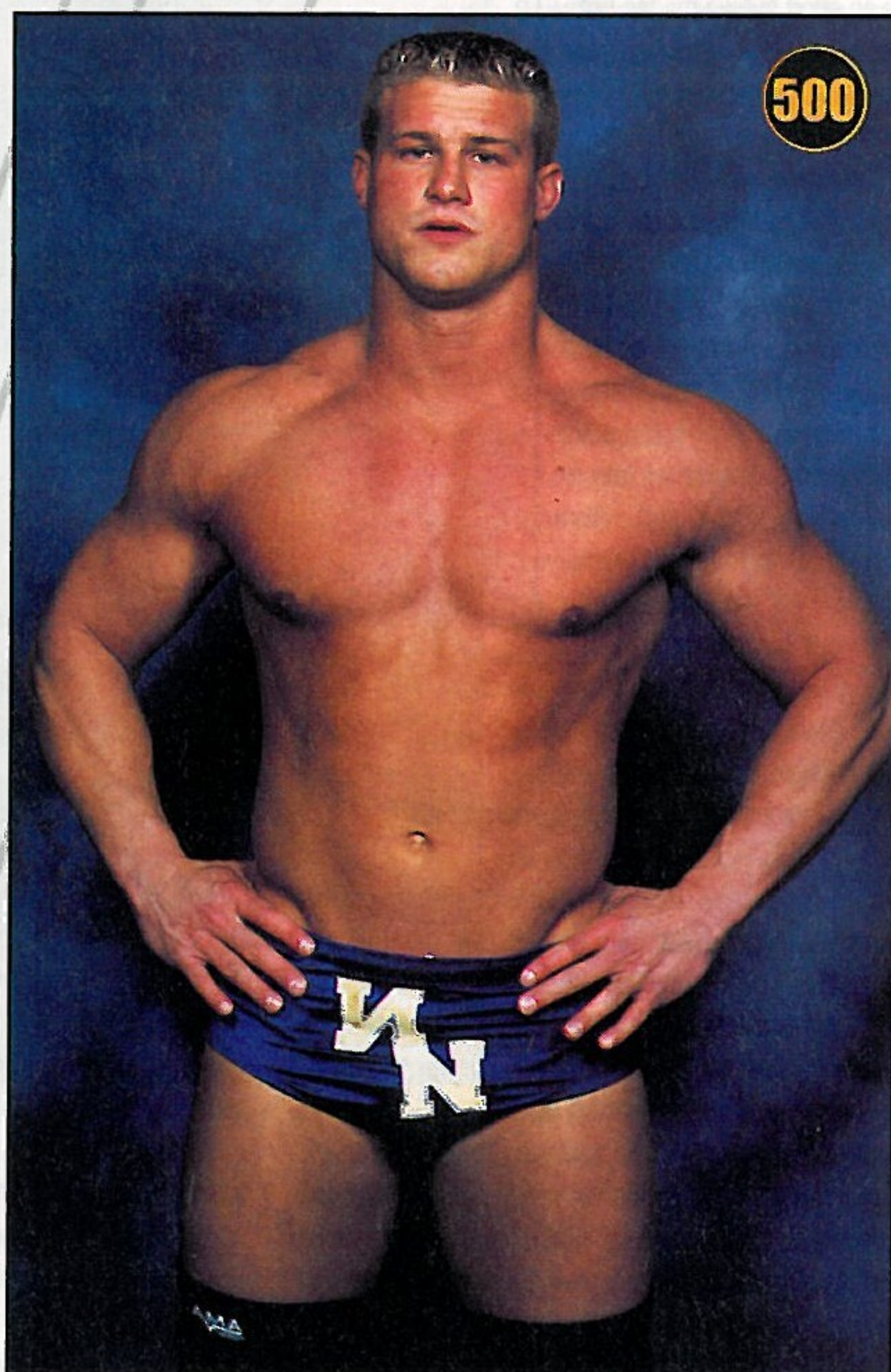
**497 J.V. INSANITY** (5'10", 190, 5, NL) Claims to hail from The Dead Zone, but we can't seem to locate that on a map ... Insanity was trained by Jimmy Valiant, a man many would say knows insanity as well as anyone ... Feuded with Jason Kincaid, Jason Lancaster, and Scotty McKeever this year ... Insanity has been competing throughout West Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky ... Tested himself against his strongest competition to date this year, facing Jack Black (formerly known as Mr. Black in OVW) and Brad Batten of The Batten Twins ... Finisher is the dizzy spell, a spinning X-Factor variation.

**498 C.J. SUMMERS** (5'9", 205, 11, NL) "The American Rock Star" has been competing in several promotions in the U.S. and has made three tours of Ireland, courtesy of Irish Whip Wrestling ... Has been embroiled in a feud with Della Morte and Morte's evil minions, The Darkness ... Regained the ACWA heavyweight title after connecting with an incredible split-legged moonsault from 15 feet above the ring, making Summers a three-time ACWA champ ... A native of Seaside Heights, New Jersey.

**499 BERT WILLIAMS** (5'9", 145, 4, NL) Actually likes the nickname "Buttery"

... Only in a promotion with manager/karaoke king Kenny Cassanova could a man who covers himself in butter become a star ... Hailing from "The Land o' Lakes Valley of Troy, New York," Bert is known as "The Duke Of Dairy Products" ... Coats his body and hair with massive amounts of butter spray ... Espouses the philosophy that wrestling is all about gimmicks ... Has battled his trainer, Thornn, through four states now ... Bert is a three-time World of Hurt cruiserweight champion and former WOH heavyweight champion ... Featured in a series of "Loser Kisses 'Buttery' Bert" bouts ... Inexplicably, Synddy Synn threw a match just to get a chance to kiss Bert.

**500 NICK NEMETH** (6', 210, 1, NL) One of the resident young lions in Ohio Valley Wrestling ... Recently signed a WWE developmental contract ... Uses a version of the stunner as his primary finishing move, but also uses a version of the RKO ... A very popular competitor, Nemeth is in the midst of a lengthy feud with Ken Doane ... Both men have had great things predicted for them by OVW observers ... Recently changed his look by shaving his head ... Occasionally teams with Chet the Jet.





The list of active wrestlers is always changing. Since last year's "PWI 500" was published, some wrestlers have migrated to different federations or changed their names. Others are now injured, inactive, or retired. Still others have been dropped from this year's survey for other reasons.

Keys are as follows (D) deceased; (DL) disabled list throughout a major portion of the year; (I) inactive; (NC) name change; (NL) not listed; (R) retired.

Bob Sapp (NL)	Dusty Rhodes Jr. (NL)	Nate Webb (NL)	The Hacker (NL)
Buh Buh Ray Dudley (NL)	Bobby Quance (NL)	Chris Candido (D)	Bob Evans (NL)
Matt Hardy (NL)	Judo Suwa (NL)	Murder 1 (NL)	Michael Sain (NL)
D-Von Dudley (NL)	James Tighe (NL)	Jimmy Snuka Jr. (NC)	Diablo Santiago (NL)
Shinya Hashimoto (D)	Yossino (NL)	Chris Hero (NL)	Biohazard (NL)
Goldberg (NL)	Billy Fives (R)	Mike Bell (NL)	Phantom Lord Spiro (NL)
Rico (R)	Mike Sullivan (R)	Rainman (NL)	Ryan Drago (NL)
Luther Reigns (NL)	Lamont (I)	Mark Bell (NL)	Rob McBride (NL)
Essa Rios (NC)	Riki Choshu (NL)	Brandon K (NL)	T.J. Dalton (NL)
Shinjiro Otani (NL)	Jimmy Vegas (NL)	Justice (NL)	Eric Xtasy (NL)
Mordecai (NC)	Chad Wicks (NC)	Sinn (NL)	Flex Fenom (NL)
Naoya Ogawa (NL)	Sumo Fuji (I)	Standing Thunder (NL)	The Bruiser (NL)
Perro Aguayo Jr. (NL)	Todd Sexton (NL)	Rapid Fire Maldonado (R)	Magic (NL)
Test (NL)	Fast Eddie (NL)	Mike Taylor (NL)	Jeromy Sage (NL)
A-Train (NC)	DeVito (NL)	Reno (NL)	Suba (NL)
Heat (NC)	Iceberg (NL)	Eric Priest (NL)	Robbie Ellis (NL)
Jerry Lynn (DL)	Dallas (NC)	Jack Xavier (NL)	Major DeBeers (NL)
Johnny Stamboli (NL)	H.C. Loc (NL)	Rob Begley (NC)	Boyce Legrand (NL)
Chavo Classic (NL)	Otto Schwanz (NL)	Brock Singleton (NL)	Don Brodie (NL)
Octagon (NL)	Jacey North (NL)	Gillberg (NL)	Slim J (NL)
Mascara Sagrada (NL)	Gabriel (NL)	Mike the Miz (NL)	Roughhouse Rivera (I)
Al Snow (NL)	Slash (NL)	Ace Darling (NL)	Joseph (NL)
Yoshihiro Takayama (NL)	Tom Brandi (NL)	Jardi Frantz (NL)	Rod Bell (NL)
Sakoda (NL)	Rico Casanova (NL)	T.J. Powers (NL)	BAM (NL)
Sabu (NL)	Azarael (NL)	Caprice Coleman (NL)	Billy Black (NL)
Black Tiger (NL)	Aaron Aguilera (NL)	Johnny the Body (NL)	Vince Vicallo (NL)
Joey Matthews (NC)	Kohei Sato (NL)	Eddie Brown (NL)	J.T. Stahr (NL)
Damien 666 (NL)	Taru (NL)	Johnny Ova (NL)	Shadow Jackson (NL)
Halloween (NL)	Ryan Boz (NL)	Scott Savage (NL)	Tejas (NL)
Glen Gilberti (NL)	Zebra Kid (NL)	Matt Sydal (NL)	El Tornado (NL)
Shane Douglas (R)	Gran Naniwa (NL)	Bart Blaxon (NL)	Scab (NL)
Takehiro Murahama (NL)	Tank (NL)	Shawn Donovan (NL)	Xero (I)
Johnny Devine (DL)	Savio Vega (NL)	Jeremy V (NL)	Dave Swift (NL)
Heavy Metal (NL)	Mike Barton (NL)	J.C. Bailey (NL)	Enigma (R)
New Jack (NL)	Evan Karagias (NL)	Scott Phoenix (NL)	Bulldog Raines (NL)
Scot Andrews (R)	Altar Boy Luke (NL)	K.C. Blade (DL)	Brandon P (NL)
Johnny Storm (NL)	Jorge Estrada (NL)	Jacob Ladder (NL)	Lil' Cholo (NL)
Ikuto Hidaka (NL)	Afa Jr. (I)	Major Hardway (NL)	Seth Delay (NL)
Dan Maff (R)	Jason the Legend (NL)	Sal Rinauro (NL)	Shane Shadows (NL)
Jason Cross (NL)	Yoshihito Sasaki (NL)	Oman Tortuga (NL)	Vennis DeMarco (NL)
Rey Misterio Sr. (NL)	Blade Boudreaux (NL)	Eddie Atlas (NL)	
Lex Lovett (R)	Buff Bagwell (NL)	Mikey Tenderfoot (NL)	
Justin Credible (NL)	Adam Windsor (NL)	Robert Thompson (NL)	



# SO WHERE DOES BATISTA RANK ALL-TIME?

**U**nlike some former top finishers in the “PWI 500,” Batista didn’t blow away the competition. Sure, he received the majority of votes from our editors and writers, but he didn’t receive all of them—not by a long shot. John Cena, Triple-H, and JBL all received support for the top spot, and by the end of the meeting, there wasn’t a clear-cut favorite. Batista, it seemed, was simply the best of a crowded field—which got us thinking about where he’d place if we compared him to the 14 previous “500” winners. Here’s what we came up with:

**15. Dean Malenko (1997).** We awarded Malenko the top spot in ‘97 because of his overall wrestling excellence. We hadn’t done it for that reason before and haven’t done it for that reason since. What does that tell you?

**14. Hulk Hogan (1991).** Some people may think that we’re being too harsh on Hogan, but take a look at some of the highlights of his winning year: He defeated Earthquake by countout at SummerSlam, last eliminated Earthquake to win the Royal Rumble, and defeated Sgt. Slaughter for the WWF championship at WrestleMania.

**13. Rob Van Dam (2002).** RVD didn’t win a world championship during the grading period. He was simply the most consistently entertaining wrestler in the sport. However, some have called his placement as the top guy in 2002 a make-good for our decision to place him number two behind Steve Austin in 1999.

**12. Bret Hart (1994).** A loss to Jerry Lawler for using excessive force with his sharpshooter (please explain that to us), co-winning the Royal Rumble with Lex Luger (co-winning?), and a victory over Yokozuna for the WWF championship doesn’t add up to an overly impressive year more than a decade after the fact.

**11. Batista (2005).** Batista had a good 12-month run during the “500” grading period, but everyone else on this list had a terrific 12-month run during their grading period. He spent too much of that stretch clouded in obscurity.

**10. Sting (1992).** Not to make too light of anything here, but all you need to know about the year that Sting took home the top prize is that he teamed with Abdullah the Butcher at Starrcade.

**9. Steve Austin (1998).** Austin started that year’s grading period as a successful mid-carder and ended it as one of the most popular main-eventers from any era. His burgeoning success as a crossover star really pushed him over the top.

**8. Diesel (1995).** Kevin Nash had an astounding grading period, with a WWF championship run (won from Bret Hart) and successful defenses against Shawn Michaels and Sid Vicious. However, he remains one of the most criticized WWF champs of all-time.

**7. Chris Benoit (2004).** In 2004, Benoit finally claimed the top spot after years of us predicting it for him. His World championship reign was the high point of an exemplary career.

**6. Steve Austin (1999).** Austin was at the height of his popularity during this grading period, which may have made his year seem a little bit more impressive at the time. He did, however, beat Rock for the title, run off a string of impressive defenses against Rock, Undertaker, and Triple-H, and beat UT in a first-blood match.

**5. Bret Hart (1993).** Started off the grading period losing the Intercontinental title to Davey Boy Smith. Defeated Ric Flair for the WWF championship, with successful defenses against Shawn Michaels and Razor Ramon before eventually losing to Yokozuna. Rebounded with a huge King of the Ring win. Quality year.

**4. Kurt Angle (2001).** While still new to the sport, Angle beat Rock for the WWF title, defended against Undertaker and Triple-H, and even escaped from a six-way “Hell In A Cell” match with his title. A 30-minute ultimate submission match loss to Chris Benoit followed by another loss in a best-of-three-falls match to Benoit bring him down, though.

**3. Brock Lesnar (2003).** “The Next Big Thing” defeated The Rock to become the youngest WWE champion ever, forced WWE to reinvent itself by taking the title exclusively to Smackdown, defeated Undertaker in a “Hell In A Cell” match, won the Royal Rumble, and defeated Kurt Angle at WrestleMania to regain the WWE championship. If you can find anything wrong with that year, let us know.

**2. Triple-H (2000).** Claimed a victory in a six-pack challenge match against Davey Boy Smith, Kane, Mankind, Big Show, and Rock to win the WWF title, beat Rock in a cage match, handed Cactus Jack a loss in a streetfight, retired Cactus after beating him in a “Hell In A Cell” match, and defeated Rock in an “Ironman” match. He was Superman that year.

**1. Shawn Michaels (1996).** HBK reignited wrestling with his ladder match against Razor Ramon, last eliminated Diesel to win the Royal Rumble, defeated Bret Hart in an “Ironman” match to win the WWF championship, and retained against Diesel in a no-holds-barred match. ‘Nuff said.

—Will Welsh



HBK: number one of the number ones!